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Purdy (i)

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The First Purdys In Canada

A Compilation of Notes and Historical Data

Concerning the Eight Children

of the Family

of Gilbert Purdy of New York

Six of Whom Came to Canada in 1783

Mostly the story of the descendants
of the eldest son, David Purdy and
his family of Bath, Ontario.

by

John W. and Hazel E. Masten

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(by J.W. and Hazel E. Masten)

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Introduction to Notes of Study "Our Purdys of Canada"

by John W. Masten

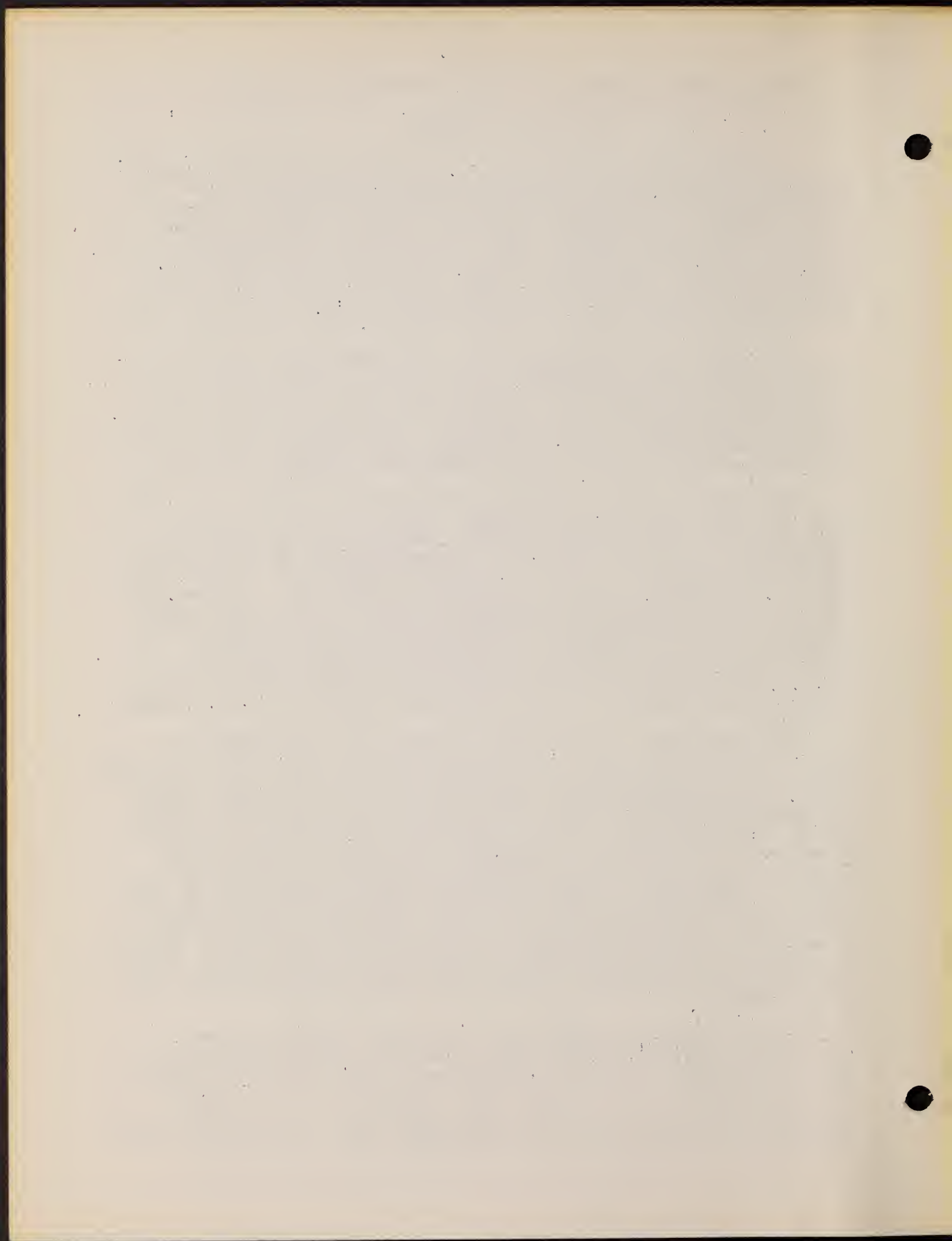
Sometime before my father's death in the early 1930's he handed me a stack of old letters written to him mostly by my mother, Emma J. Purdy before their marriage on March 22, 1881. "Your mother died" said he "before you or your brother Charles were old enough to remember her. These letters are sweetheart letters, but after you read them you will know what kind of a mother you had." As young and busy people do, I put these away for another twenty-five years. When my wife Hazel and I retired, I got these letters out one day and read every one of them.

My mother was a Canadian girl. Her letters told about her life with her family in Canada in the 1870's. They told of her six brothers all married and in business. They were filled with interesting anecdotes about herself and her mother after grandfather John's death in 1863. Emma was the youngest in the family. The others were all married and raising families and she visited all of them with her mother, my grandmother, Margaret Ann Purdy.

My wife and myself decided to visit Canada in 1961 and learn more about my relatives, the Purdys. There were few contacts with the past. The journey became a pleasant one by jet from California to Toronto. Thence by rail to Kingston and later back along Lake Ontario by rented car to all places where we might find traces of our Purdys. Later we toured the Gaspé and returned to Chicago from Montreal via Dutch Ocean Lines. We met many descendants of our first cousins. We found much historical data. We contacted books, institutions, libraries and older citizens. We made contacts which led to much correspondence over nearly two years. The result is really a source book of data from which much more could be gathered by others who can contribute if they choose.

The historical part and that obtained from references is first. Here we have copied from data furnished by Dr. H.C. Burleigh, U.E.L. Historian of Bath. An old book "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte" has furnished much. Material from the J.C. Clarke diary in Queen's University Library is important. Mr. H. Pierson Gundy, Chief Librarian of the Queen's University of Kingston has kindly furnished us with several bulletins. One entitled "The United Empire Loyalists Settlements Between Kingston and Adolphustown" by R. W. Cumberland. Another "Gilbert Purdy--Pioneer Jack of All Trades" by H. Pearson Gundy. There are numerous library references which have furnished background. As we gathered more and more momentum by visiting relatives and friends of the old Purdy family we were able to make contacts with many living persons able to help and direct us. The theme of the notes leads into this study from many angles.

To find living relatives here and there was the crowning achievement which tied the study to reality. My mother Emma and her brothers and sisters, the children of John Purdy and Margaret Ann Fretz were, of course, all dead. My mother, the youngest, in the family was born in 1853. Our problem was to find the children, if possible of this older generation. They could remember the members of the old family. They were the first cousins.



My brother and myself could call John Purdy and Margaret Ann Fretz Purdy, our grandparents. We could call our mother's brothers and sisters, aunts or uncles. Aunt Maturia, Uncle Sam, Uncle Ridley or Lewis or Ralph or Charles or David. Later we have learned much about the families and descendants of those aunts and uncles.

Eventually we located a first cousin, the son of Ridley Purdy, still living in Toronto named Will M. Purdy and his wife, Audrey. Will was 88 in 1961. Their memory of the old family was like finding a gold mine. Will remembered my mother, Emma, who helped care for him and his brothers and sisters just before his own mother died. He knew our mutual grandmother Purdy for many years before her death in 1902. We located the wives of two more first cousins, Mrs. Maud Purdy, the wife of Will Purdy of Castleton and Mrs. Eva Mae Purdy, the wife of Walter Purdy of Peterborough.

Both this Will and Walter were sons of Sam Purdy of Castleton and Coe Hill. Even before this we located Claude V. Purdy and his wife Olive in Kingston. Claude was the son of Lew Purdy. Lew was the third son of Sam, my uncle who was my mother's brother.

Mrs. Arthur Rutherford of Colborne was responsible for our finding Claude V. and the family of Lew Purdy mostly near Kingston, Ontario.

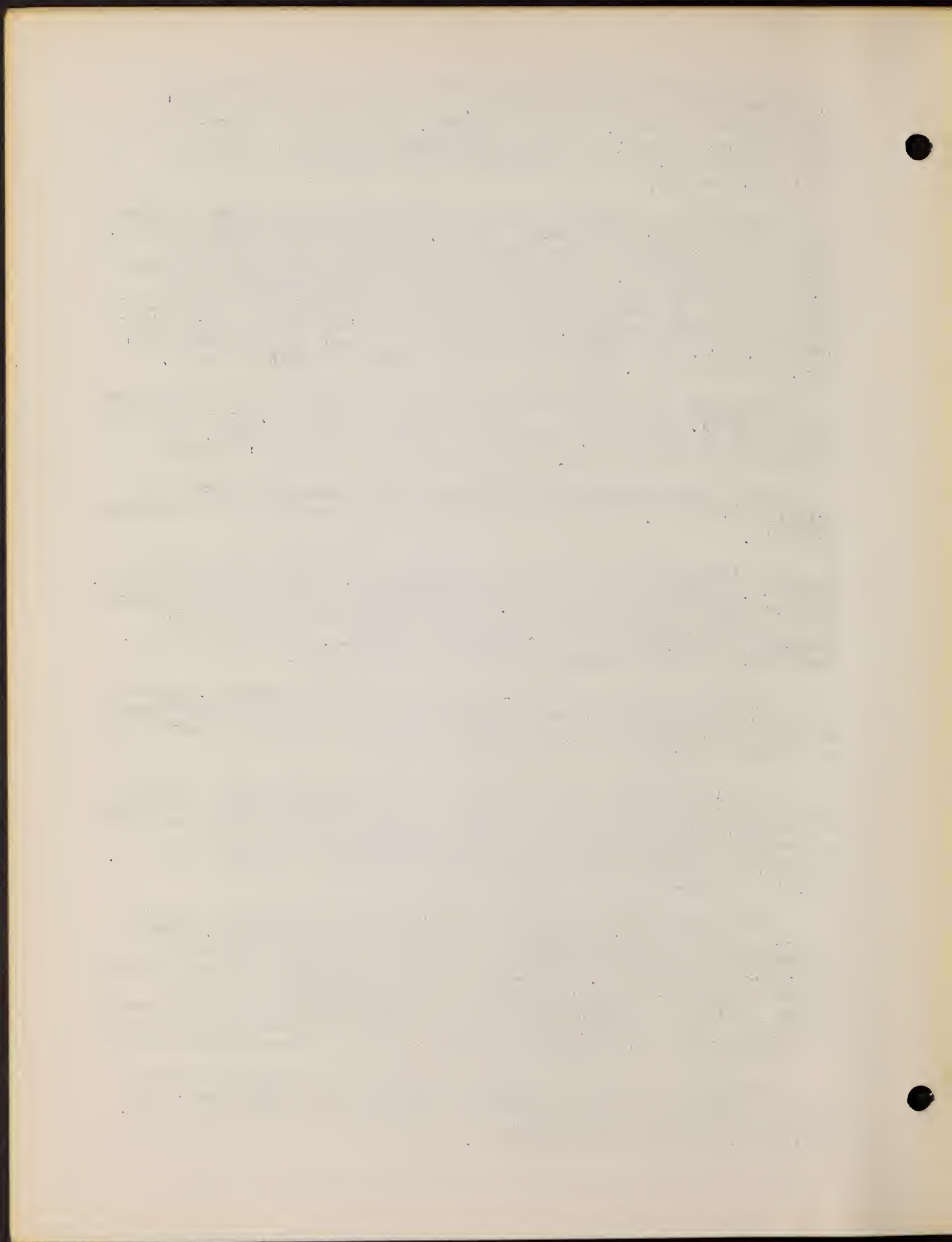
As time passed we found Ione Oakes, the daughter of Minnie Vrooman. Minnie was the daughter of mother's only sister, Maturia. Maturia married James Vrooman. Through Ione we found Maud Vrooman of Wisconsin. Maud is the daughter of Minnie's brother, Will Vrooman. Through Maud we found, still living, Effie and Nellie, daughters of Ralph, another brother of my mother.

Later we found the Charles Purdy family in Portland. Charles like all the old first family is dead but his daughter Maud Thomas is still living aged 88, and another daughter, Maturia, named after my mother's sister, is still living.

All in all there are seven of the first cousins still living and the wives of two others: myself and brother Charles, the sons of Emma (Purdy) Masten; Maud Thomas and Maturia Hunt, the daughters of Charles Purdy of Portland; Effie Purdy and Nellie Purdy, daughters of Ralph Purdy of Superior, Wisconsin; finally, Will M. Purdy of Toronto, son of Ridley Purdy.

There is a special section devoted to letters from several sources and a section devoted to family group histories. Direct information in signed letters constitute a valuable source of authentic information. Of course, there is much repetition in this method of gathering data. There is some conflicting data and dates. This is apparent even from historical data written up many years ago. The writers have repeated themselves and purposefully in getting data from different sources to help prove authenticity.

Errors and omissions will be corrected if they are called to our attention and if a revision is possible. Otherwise they will be added as an appendix. This study is a source book. From it we hope others will carry on.



There is more data about our family of John Purdy and Margaret Ann Fretz which may be added later. There is already included more about this than other groups.

The family of great grandfather, David Purdy, with seven sons and two daughters is also quite definitely outlined but not in detail. Our grandfather, John, is one of David's sons. We have been able to trace in considerable detail two of John's brothers, Gilbert and Jacob. We are much indebted to Elva Mae Hobbs of Toronto for data regarding her grandfather, Jacob Purdy, a brother of John. We are indebted to Elva Hobbs for a great deal of data regarding the Lewis A. Purdy family. Lewis is another son of grandfather John. Elva Mae's letters, enclosed herein, are especially significant in fixing Gilbert Purdy's hereditary data as a part of our Purdys and various relationships of other groups. The fact that Jacob's wife, Amelia Fretz, sister of John's wife, Anna Fretz, and that Elva Mae's father, John Rose, was the son of another sister, Aurelia Fretz, makes quite a problem in blood relationships.

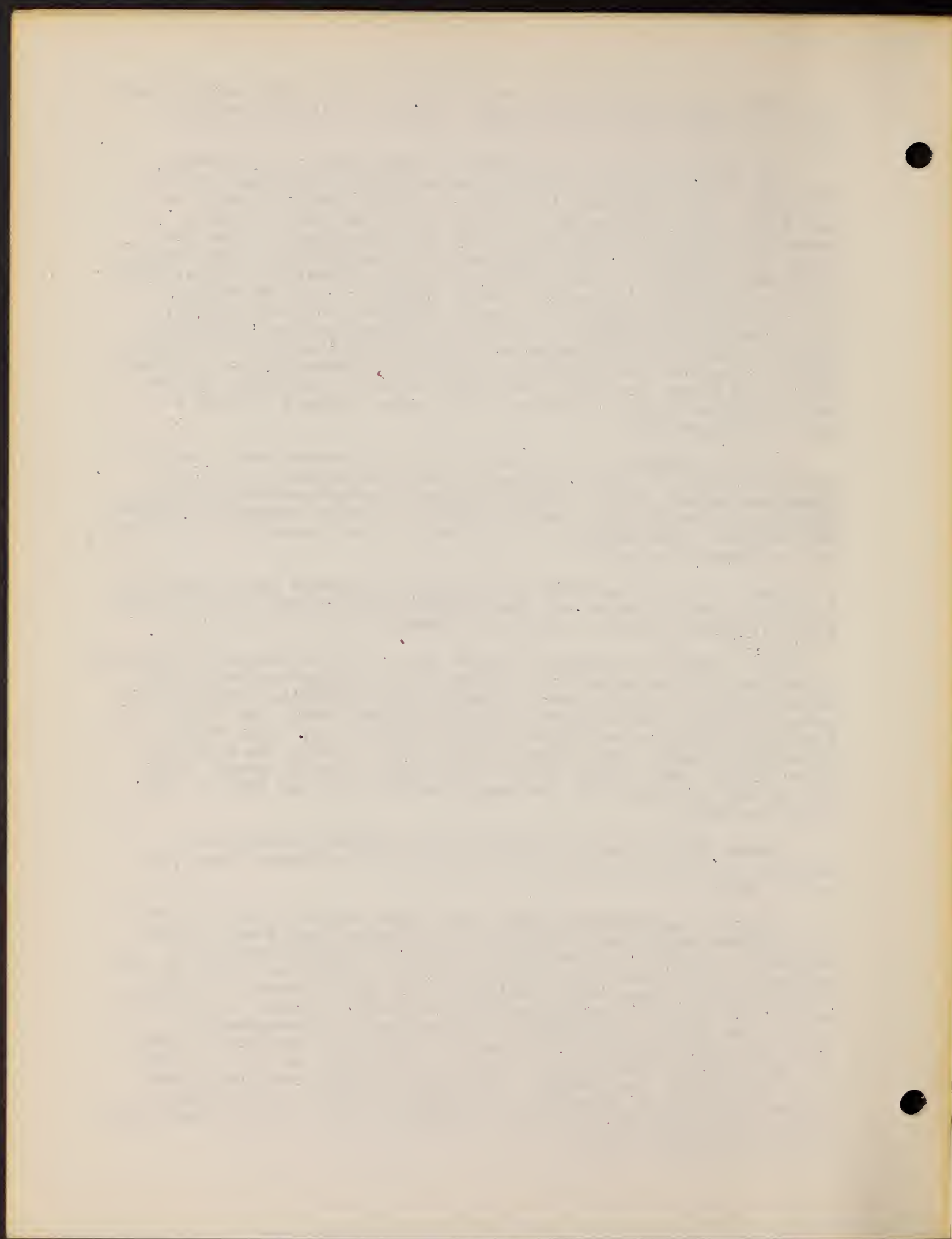
We are indebted to Wm. Purdy of 7641 Placentia Ave., Anaheim, California for our first outline of the descendants of Gilbert Purdy and Hannah Gould. Later we were indebted to Mrs. Marjorie Rutherford, for another similar outline of these descendants which she obtained from members of this group in her vicinity of Colborne and Castleton, Ontario.

Mrs. A. C. Hetcalfe of Toronto and her Cousin Harry Walker of Toronto helped to trace out the Gilbert Purdy-Hannah Gould outline down to recent members. This is a special study not included.

Mrs. Fred'k Stevenson of White Rock, British Columbia, furnished considerable data augmented by that of Mrs. Marjorie Rutherford, which related a family group starting with Nathaniel Purdy to our group starting with Gilbert Purdy and Hannah Gould, his wife, and including others named Clarke, Walker and others. This is an incomplete study. The writers think that possibly the Nathaniel Purdy family was related to our own Purdys through Samuel Purdy, one of the original four brothers from New York but this is not proven as yet.

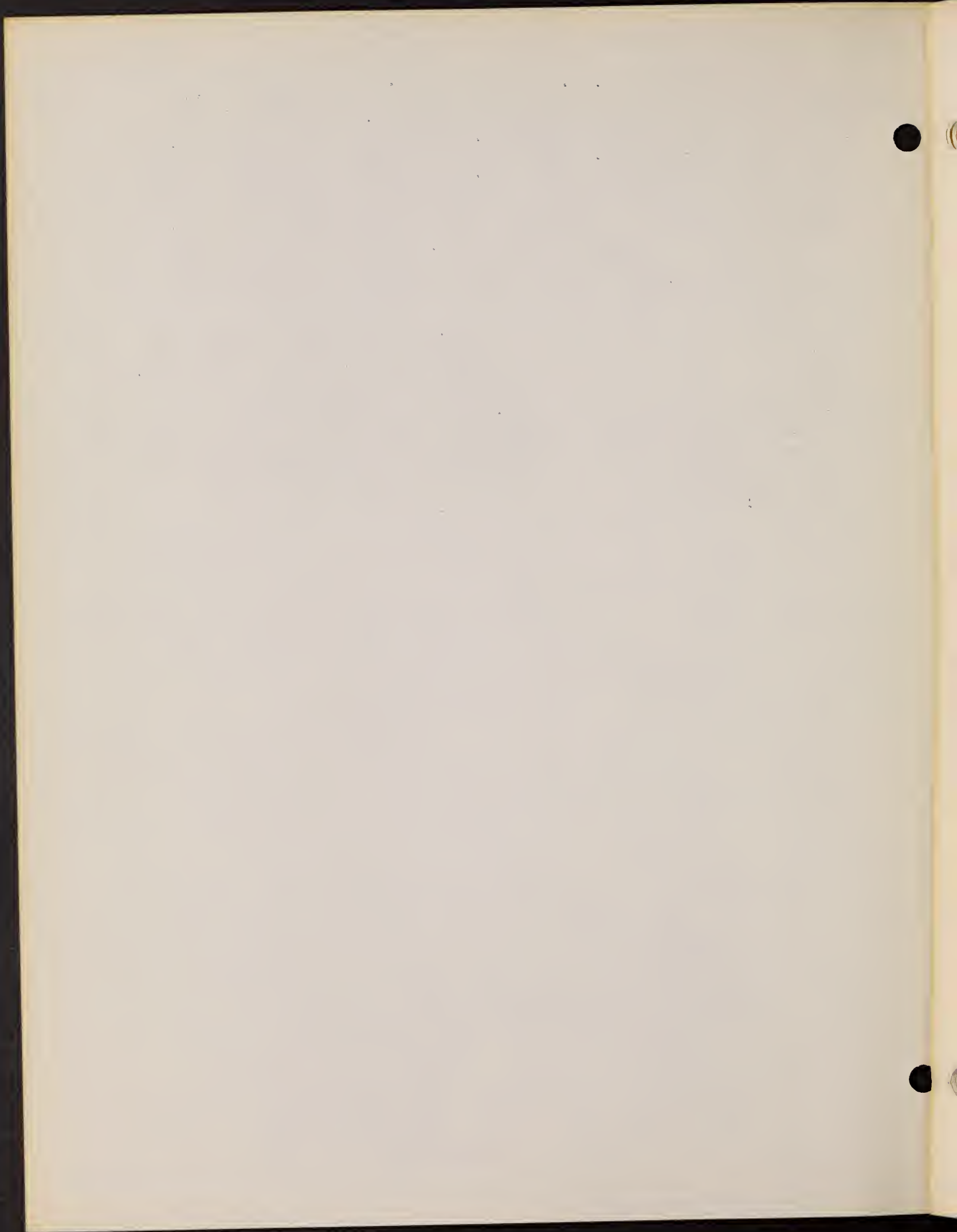
There are too many to whom we are indebted for help to mention in this Introduction. They will be mentioned hereafter in the text.

There is considerable historical data reaching back to great grandfather David Purdy and his three brothers and four sisters who came from New York to Canada in 1783. This is adequately explained elsewhere. There is much room for further study of the descendants of these four brothers. Our attempt covers little except the story of David Purdy's descendants. There is included an outline of David's brother, Gilbert and his descendants. Gilbert's descendants started out in Kingston. Many are buried in the Kingston Cemeteries. Micajah, the third brother, we know much less about, and Samuel, the fourth brother moved elsewhere and we know little about him. We think he owned a stage line between York (now Toronto) and Kingston in 1817, but his name alone is not authentic proof.



The bulletin by R. W. Cumberland, No. 45, "The United Empire Loyalist Settlements Between Kingston and Adolphustown" was given to the writer by H. Pierson Gundy, the Chief Librarian of Queen's University of Kingston. It is a Canadian bulletin published in May, 1923. Robert Everett Grass, a son of Captain Michael Grass married Nancy Purdy. His mother, Esther Everett, was a sister of John Everett who married Mercy Purdy, one of the four sisters of our great grandfather, David Purdy. There are many close relationships between the Purdys, the Grass family, Barnabus Day, who married Rhoda Purdy, another sister of our greatgrandfather, and their descendants. The original families came in with Michael Grass in 1783. This is explained more in detail elsewhere.

While most of the data of this study has been compiled and edited by John W. Masten, the writer's wife, Hazel Estelle, has been very helpful in helping collect data. Miss Linda Patterson, our secretary, a student at Fresno State College has worked painstakingly, taking dictation, typing, mimeographing and correcting copy. Mimeograph work nevertheless copied straight from letters or long hand shows many errors when copied verbatim. To eliminate these by another revision is not our purpose as yet. Please just pass over these errors and weep for us if you think we deserve sympathy!



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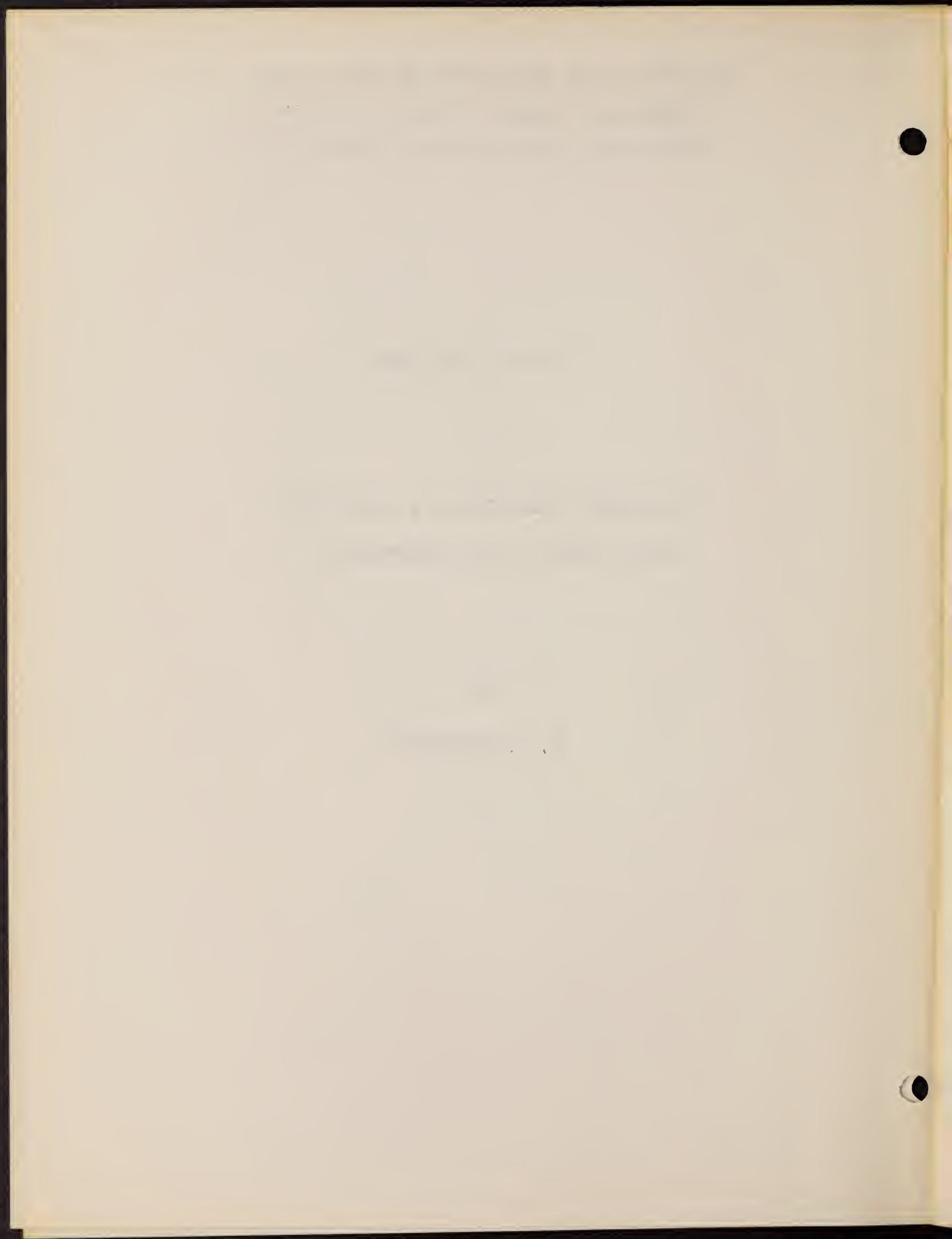
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NO. 45, MAY, 1923

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST SETTLEMENTS
BETWEEN KINGSTON AND ADOLPHUSTOWN

BY

R. W. CUTBERLAND



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THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST SETTLEMENTS
BETWEEN KINGSTON AND ADOLPHUSTOWN /

There are many interesting legends about the original division of the Earth among the sons of man. Yet, in the pages of history such divisions are rare. In Europe diplomatic claim and counter-claim rise from a confusion of conquest and restoration, and race is inextricably mingled with race. Only in a new country is clear cut partition possible.

In the midsummer of 1784 such a division was made at Cataragui, when the townships, situated upon the north-eastern shore of Lake Ontario and the lower end of the Bay of Quinte, were chosen as sites for settlement by the leaders of the Loyalist bands. An account¹ of the allotment is given by a son of Capt. Michael Grass, who relates how his father

(¹The Loyalists of America and their Times. By Egerton Ryerson, D.D., LL.D., in two volumes. Toronto: William Briggs, 80 King St., East, 1880, vol. II, ch. xli, p. 208.)

received the first choice (Kingston)², Sir John Johnson the second (Ernesttown), Major Rogers the third (Fredericksburgh)³, and Capt. Van Alstine the fourth (Adolphustown), while the remaining township (Marysburgh) fell to Capt. McDonnell. According to this choice the area with which we propose to deal was settled. What were the origins of these pioneers? Without going into that tale of Whig and Tory contention in the colonies which had its roots deep in English history, let us briefly consider the situation which preceded the exodus of the Loyalists. The causes, though based upon conflicting theories of government, were frequently complicated by local issues which differed in each country.

New York supplied most of the Loyalists who came to Upper Canada. In this colony party warfare had been both long and bitter. Church and State had stood together as in the England of Charles I, and many of the Dutch, naturally conservative, were also supporters of the established order. On the other hand, the Presbyterian and Independent elements had no illusions about the divine right of kings. Social position was also a dividing factor, though when the Revolution came many of the landed gentry (and even members of the same family) were found on either side. Many of the poor were discontented; yet not a few placed loyalty to the King higher than democratic ambition.

In the earlier phases of the struggle both Whig and Tory were united against the British Government's assertion of the right to tax the colonies. The more moderate, however, were not in favour of armed opposition and, when the crisis came, prepared to fight with, rather than against, the British. Yet it must be remembered that their sentiment was, in most cases, colonial and that they considered themselves to be the true American patriots.

The war was waged in almost every part of the country and was carried on in a manner calculated to cause the greatest

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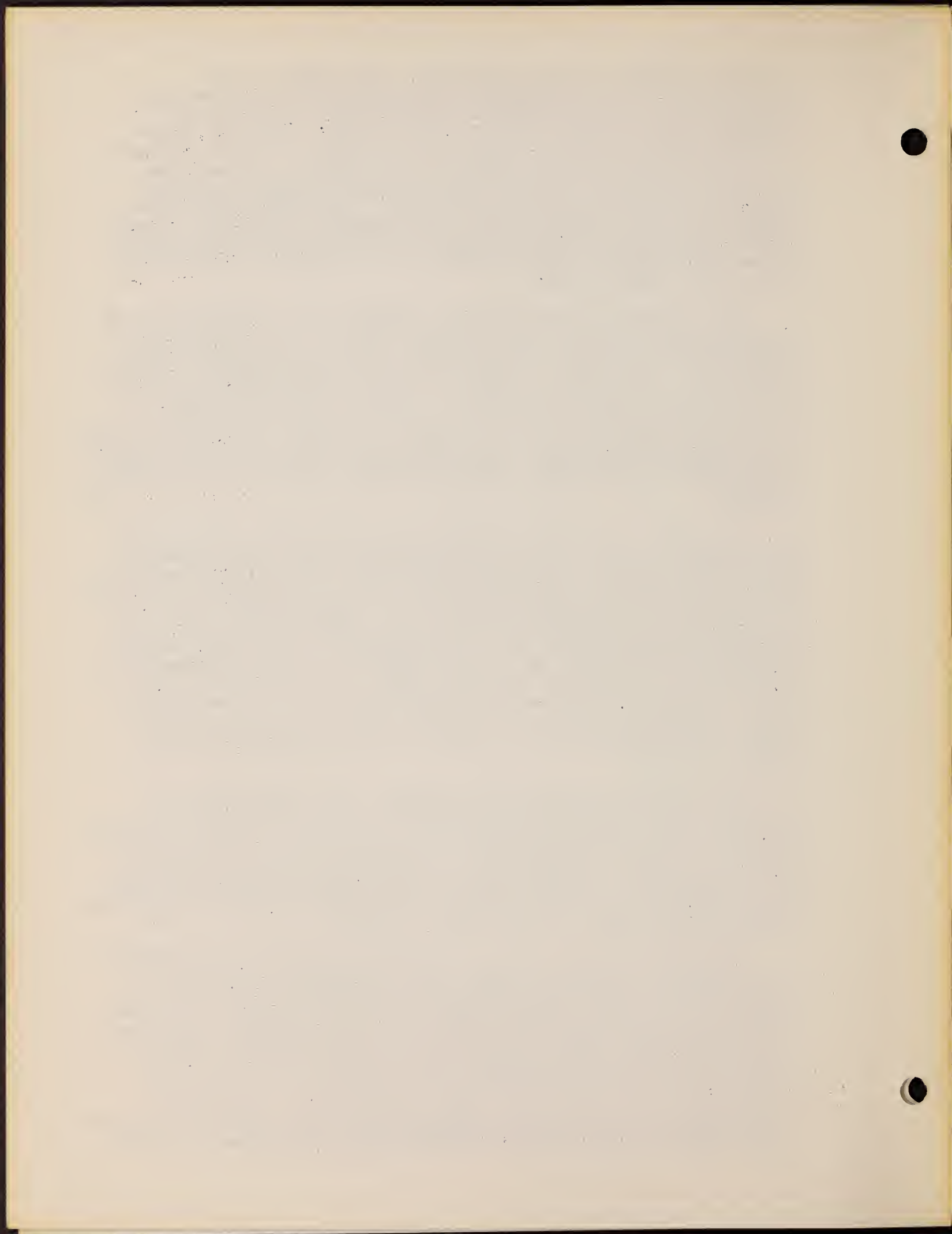
possible distress to the Loyalists. Many fled or were expelled during the struggle; many departed with the British at its close. Those who were wealthy went, as a rule, to England; though some, like Sir John Johnson, chose to remain in the British colonies. The vast majority of those who came to Upper Canada were the tradesmen and farmers who had made up the rank and file of New York's 23,500 Loyalist soldiers. Many of them would rather have pursued their vocations undisturbed but, in a conflict like the American Revolution, it was almost impossible to avoid taking one side or the other; and the victors showed little disposition to forgive those who had borne arms against them.

The passion of that time is, perhaps, not difficult for us to understand, whether it expressed itself in the wanton indignities of the mobs or the legal penalties imposed by various tribunals. The forms of civil government might remain; yet its spirit could hardly be retained. It would be easy to condemn much that was done, but we cannot forget that "the essence of war is violence" and that men engaged in a life and death struggle with their brethren would not interpret justice under the most advantageous conditions. And frequently private vengeance was exacted or private avarice indulged under the plea of the national welfare.

The course of action followed by the various states after the conflict is more open to condemnation than their conduct during the progress. The effects of the vindictive policy pursued in defiance of the fifth article of the Treaty of Paris are too well known to require repetition. Massachusetts led in passing and enforcing prescriptive and confiscatory acts, and in South Carolina alone was any moderation shown toward avowed Loyalists. The events of the war were too recent, it seemed, to permit a wiser and more merciful policy. *Vae victis* was the rule. Hence the dispersion of families which had once formed part of an energetic and prosperous population; not Acadians these but Americans, some of them men from Longfellow's own state and city.

But let us turn from the general to the particular and discover something of the way in which the bands that had assembled and crossed to the Bay of Quinte were related to these events. It may be noted that, though all the bands had some form of military organization, in two cases, those of Grass and Van Alstine, the organization was subsequent to the war, while in the other three cases the men were members of units which had played a considerable part on the conflict.

Sir John Johnson, son of Sir William Johnson and inheritor of his estate, was one of the most noted supporters of the Royal cause. Knighted by the King in his early youth and the son of a high Tory, Johnson could hardly be expected to follow any other course than that which he chose to pursue. The statement made by his cousin, Guy Johnson, whose case was brought before the Provincial Congress, was probably typical of the Johnson creed: "I should be much obliged for your promises" (of safety) 'did they not appear to be made on condition of compliance with continental congresses or even committees many of whose resolves may neither consist with my conscience, duty or



loyalty.²

(²Loyalism in New York during the American Revolution. By Alexander Clarence Flick, Ph.D. New York: The Columbia University Press, 1901, p. 58.
I am much indebted for the careful study of the New York Loyalists which has been made by Dr. Flick.--R.V.C.)

This is in the spirit of the best element which supported Charles I and, as the retainers of the English nobility fought under their hereditary lords, so many of those who had settled upon his hands fled with Sir John in 1776 to find refuge in Quebec and there joined the first battalions which he enrolled. Their official title was The King's Royal Regiment of New York, though they were more frequently called Sir John Johnson's Regiment and to the enemy were known as the Royal Greens. They were the nucleus from which several other bodies, such as Jessup's Corps and that commanded by Guy Johnson were formed.

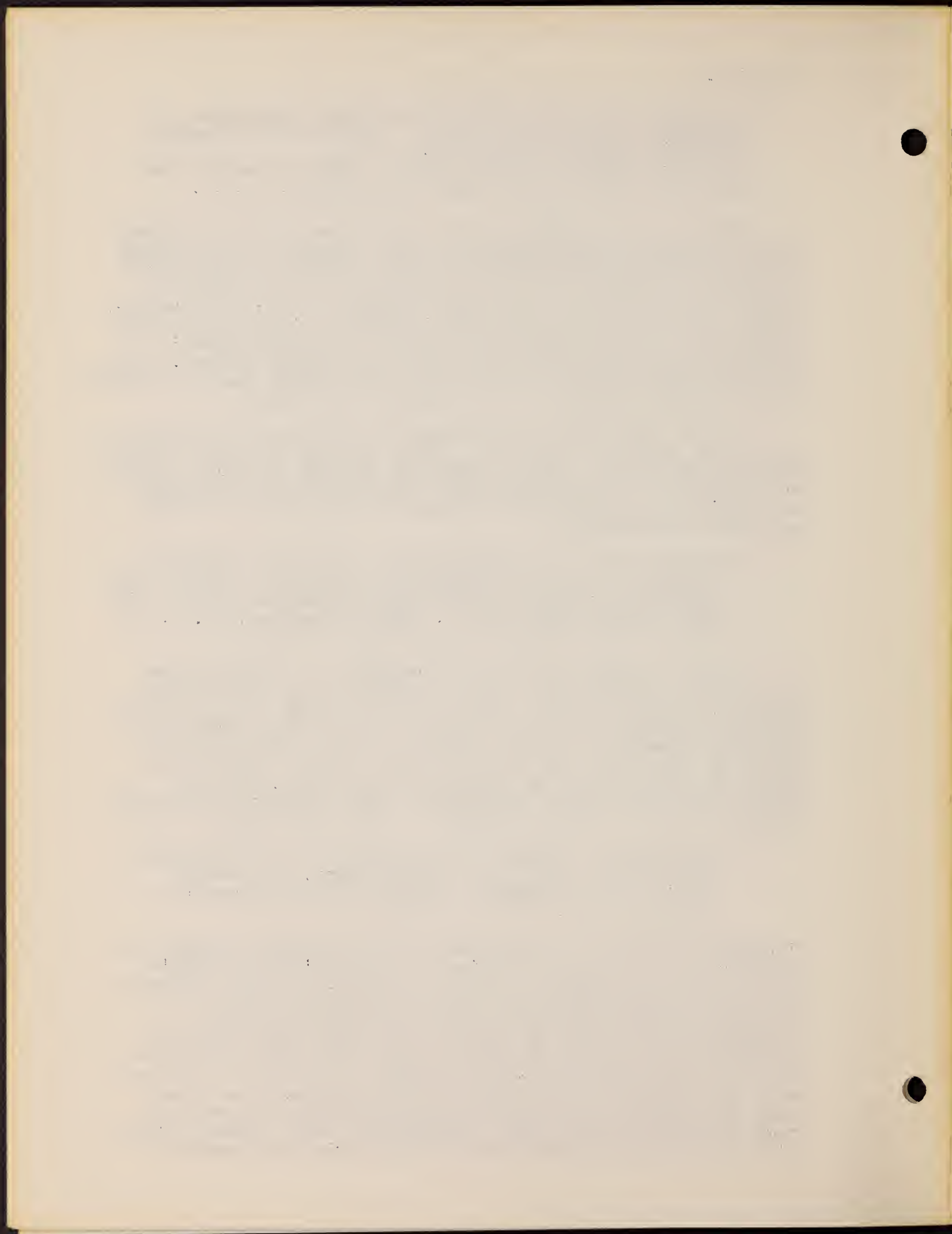
Of Sir John Johnson's campaigns in the field it is impossible here to treat in detail. He was already a trained soldier when the war began. 'He had scarcely attained majority when he was intrusted with an independent command and in it displayed an ability, a fortitude and a judgment worthy of riper years and wider experience.'

(³Orderly Book of Sir John Johnson during the Oriskany Campaign, 1776-1777. Annotated by William S. Stone, with an Historical Introduction illustrating the Life of Sir John Johnson, Bart.; by J. Watts de Peyster. LL.D., H.A. Albany: Joel Munsell's Sons, 1882, p. xxxiv.)

Whether Johnson would have succeeded as a leader of any large body of troops is, perhaps, doubtful; but he knew the country, the type of men whom he led and, above all, the custom of warfare adapted to the frontier. His methods in the raids conducted through his native district on the Mohawk appear to have been harsh even for that time; and Sabine, noted for his fairness, states that 'In predatory enterprises, the Royal Greens enjoy an infamous celebrity. They committed quite every enormity known in savage warfare.'

(⁴Biographical Sketches of the Loyalists of the American Revolution, with an Historical Essay. By Lorenzo Sabine; in two volumes. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1864, vol. I, p. 579.)

'barbarous cruelty' of the attack led by Alexander McDonald on Schoharie in 1778, and the 'dismal testimony' of Sir John's visit to his birthplace in 1780. No doubt, when all allowance is made for exaggeration, the strife was cruel enough. The bitterness with which both parties contended at Oriskany illuminates the spirit of the time and raids could hardly be merciful. The men taking part in them were embittered rather than naturally callous and were capable of taking up life once more as they had left it before civilization was overturned. They are defended by Canniff, who says of Johnson's regiment that 'this body of men took a conspicuous part, although those who feared them and were unequal to meet them in successful



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combat endeavoured to malign them.⁵

It may not be unjust to conclude, without marshalling the detail of evidence on either side, that there was much in those wild days which the best men who had taken part in the raids would be glad to forget; much that they left untold when their children's children climbed upon their knees and asked them for stories of that stirring time. What they omitted would be remembered in the settlements along the Mohawk and thus a tradition of 'patriot' wrongs would be kept alive in New York, similar to that of the 'Loyalist' sufferings which has come down in Canada.

The first white inhabitants of Ernesttown and of Fredericksburgh were nearly of the same type. The men who occupied the township chosen for them by Sir John Johnson and those who, under Major James Rogers, found their land in that adjoining, are stated by Caniff⁶ to have belonged to the second battalion

(⁵History of the Settlement of Upper Canada with special reference to the Bay of Quinte. By Wm. Caniff, M.D., M.R.S.C.E. Toronto: Dudley and Burns, 1869, ch. xliv, p. 439.)

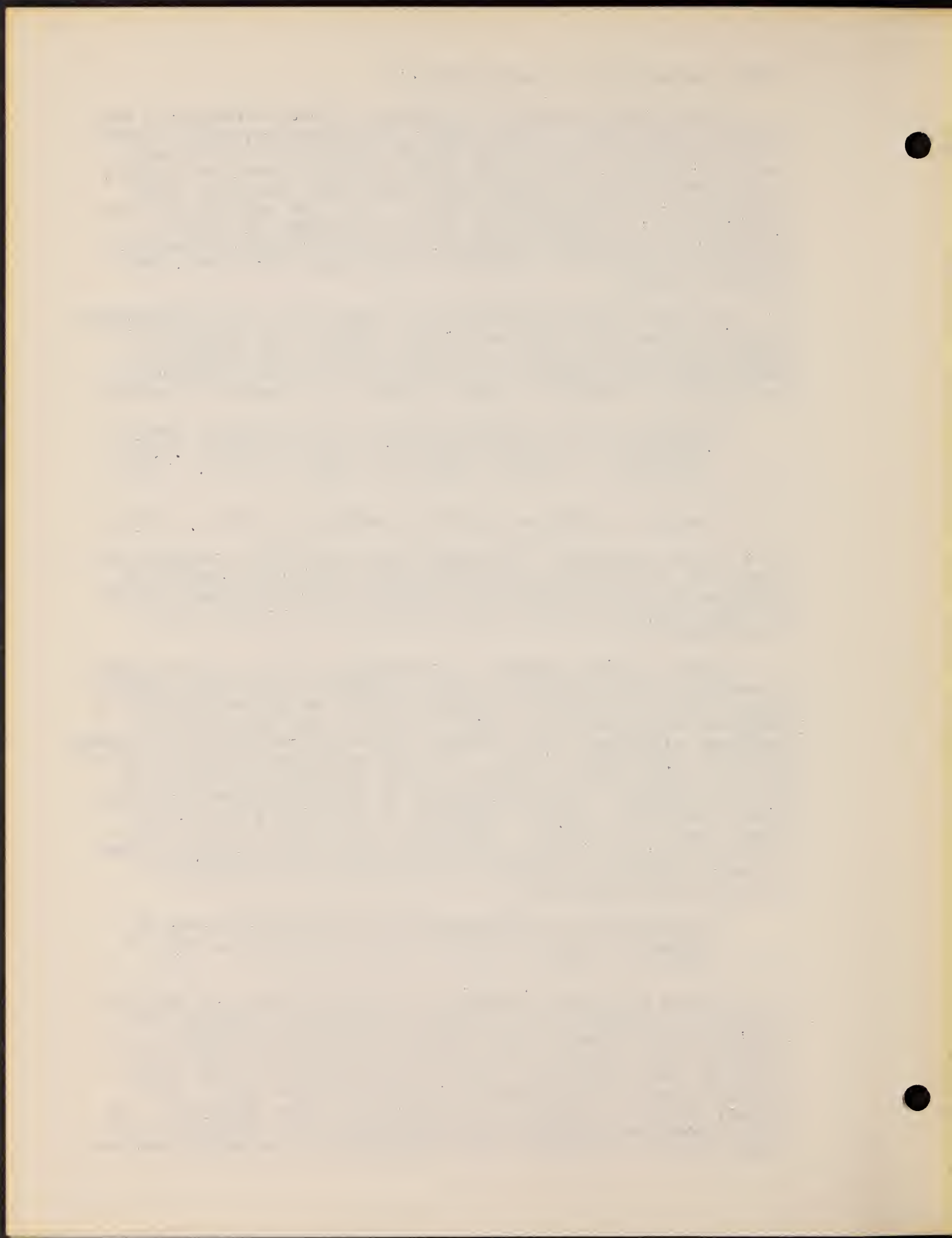
(⁶Caniff, Settlement of Upper Canada, ch. xlix, p. 439.)

of the 84th regiment. He thinks that a few of the soldiers may have come to their new homes from active military service at Carleton Island or Oswego; yet the majority and perhaps nearly all came direct from Isle aux Noix near the northern end of Lake Champlain.

Walter Rogers, however, a descendant of Major James Rogers, asserts that his forefather came to Canada by ship with several other officers to staff a regiment which was to be commanded by his more famous brother Robert. When the plan for this new regiment collapsed these officers and their recruits were brigaded with the provincial troops. The head-quarters for Major Rogers' men was at St. John's, Quebec, and he appears to have been a trusted officer. 'Various schemes of reconnaissance and attack were, from time to time, submitted by him to his Excellency, considered and approved. His advice was asked for and taken. On more than one occasion he seems to have been employed, where a field officer's services were demanded, upon measures of delicacy and importance.'

(⁷Proceedings and Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada--a paper by Walter Rogers, 2nd series, vol. VI sec. 2, p. 49.)

Rogers returned to Vermont in 1783 to adjust, if possible, matters of business and to bring to Canada his Highland wife. His men were probably drawn in part from his own district, as Johnson's had been from the Mohawk and the upper Hudson, and most of them accompanied 'their old commander in that heroic advance into the wilderness in search of a new home.' The Major, though of Vermont, had been born in New Hampshire. He was, therefore, a pioneer by training and well fitted for the task which he undertook. Nor did wealth or a somewhat reserved



and aristocratic manner remove him, as it seems to have removed the younger Johnsons, from close and sympathetic contact with the men who shared his venture.

The third settlement of military origin was that located by Capt. Archibald McDonnell in 'fifth town' or Marysburgh. The Foreign Legion, to which most of these settlers belonged, had been composed chiefly of Hessians with a few Scotch and Irish.⁸ Many of the Hessians employed in the war had availed

(⁸Canniff, Settlement of Upper Canada, ch. li, p. 459.)

themselves of the privilege of returning to their native land; but some of them determined to try their fortune in the New World. They came up the St. Lawrence in bateaux with McDonnell in 1785. Strictly speaking, the Hessians were not Loyalists but merely the victims of circumstance conscripted for blood-money by their mercenary feudal lords. Other settlers in Marysburgh were of quite different origin, being officers from the 84th and other regiments who secured grants in this township.

There is much in common between the histories of the two remaining bands which came to this district; those of Capt. Grass occupying Kingston, and Capt. Van Alstine, Adolphustown.⁴ Each came in 1783 from New York, already crowded with despairing Loyalists; each was composed of citizens of diverse origin whose common bond was the decision to embark together on a new and dangerous enterprise; each was commanded by a man chosen and given his rank for that specific undertaking; and each came to its destination by the same route, undergoing similar experiences.

Michael Grass was probably responsible for the coming of the second band as well as his own. He had, according to his account, been asked by Carleton to undertake the leadership of a band of Loyalists and to conduct them to the site of Ft. Frontenac, where he had been held prisoner when a young man by the French. After three days' deliberation he had consented. The opinion of Capt. Grass regarding the possibilities of settlement was quite favorable and a prominent citizen named Van Alstine was deputed to be captain of another ship load of Loyalists. Grass had come early enough in the year to ascend the St. Lawrence accompanied by some men belonging to his party. The others remained at Sorel, to which place the advance guard returned for the winter, after having gauged the situation at Cataragui. In the meantime Van Alstine's band arrived and the two parties, no doubt containing many friends, wintered as best they could in huts and tents and made their plans for the ensuing summer.

In various stages of the enterprise the military organization of these home-seekers was of distinct advantage. Civilians could, in these days, adapt hastily a form of military discipline; for the long continuance of the French wars had not been without its affects and almost every man in the colonies was a potential soldier. Sabine merely states a fact which all events emphasize when he says that 'the age was decidedly military.'

The townships were not settled exclusively by the followers

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14

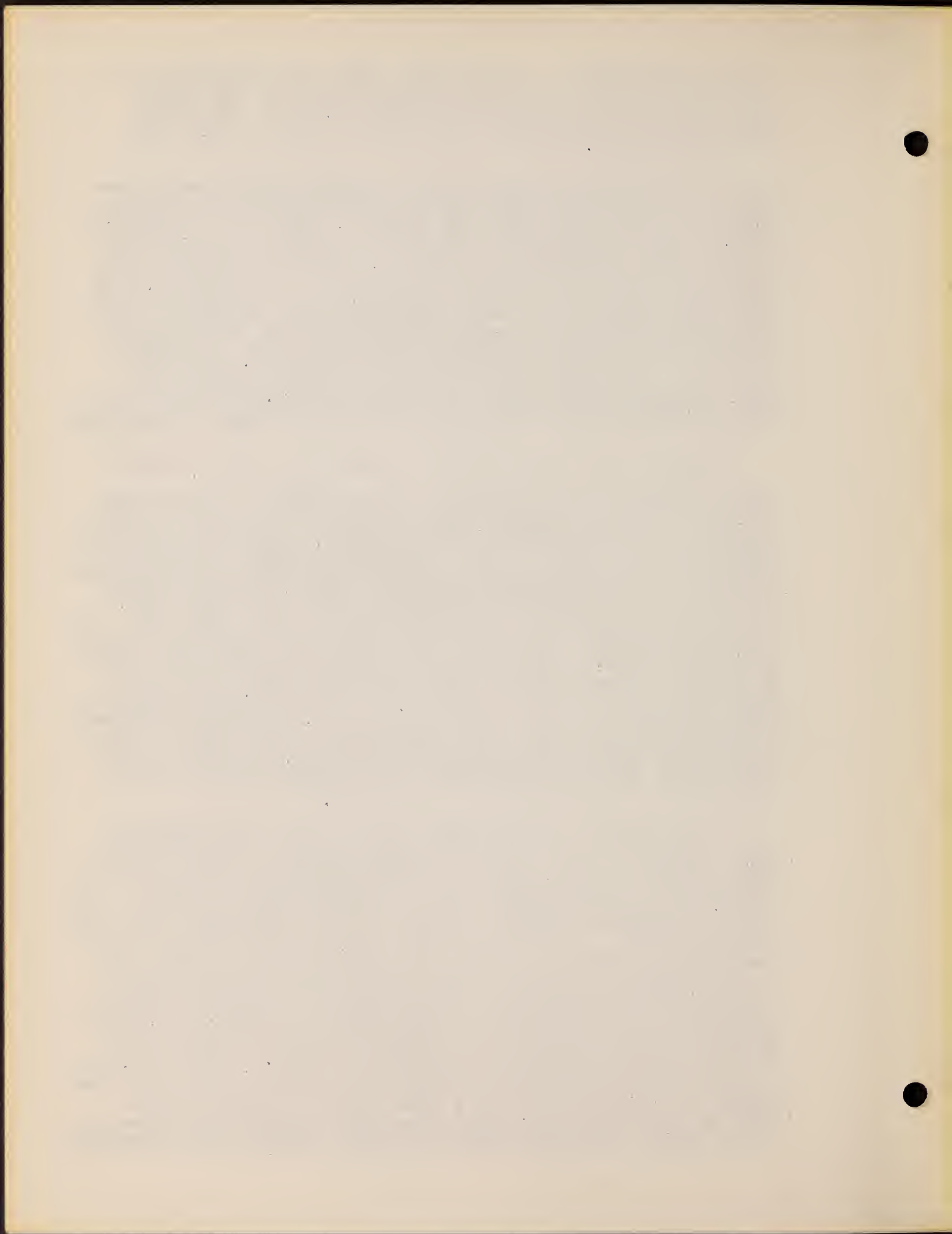
of the five leaders. In the early stages of settlement only the lots bordering on the water were valuable. The inland lots awaited the sons of the pioneers and later immigrants, while those 'on the front' soon began to rise in price and to change owners.

Of the reasons which impelled the Loyalists to seek a new home in the northern forests it is hardly necessary to speak. There were some among the more wealthy 'Tories' who voluntarily withdrew from the colonies and could not have been induced to remain under Republican institutions. Yet most of these were, in one way or another, more closely connected with the British Government than with colonial institutions. The great mass of the Loyalists did not go into voluntary exile and many of them would have returned and accepted the Revolution as an accomplished fact if their property had been restored. Canniff is, no doubt, correct in quoting those whom he had known in his youth as saying that 'they would live anywhere, endure any toil, undergo any privation, as long as they were in the King's dominion'; yet this statement is, perhaps, as much the reaction

(⁹Canniff, Settlement of Upper Canada, ch. lxix, p. 617.)

to the treatment accorded them by the victorious Whigs as any abstract devotion to monarchical institutions. Flick, in his chapter on the emigration of the Loyalists, gives many specific examples which prove that the sentimental devotion to the land of their birth was strong enough to carry back not a few Americans in spite of the most severe penalties which might await them. It is probably that this attachment was stronger among those who came to the Bay of Quinte from New York city under Grass and Van Alstine than in the case of the bands which had been engaged in active warfare. The latter had come chiefly from the newer settlements of northern New York, from the Mohawk, the upper Hudson and the new state of Vermont. Many of them had not been born in America and the feelings of all must have been hardened by the events which they had passed through. But most of those who came by sea belonged to older and more established settlements, had, perhaps, sacrificed more in comfort and were less prepared for the rude life of the frontier.

It is easier to follow the course of the bands coming by the Atlantic and the St. Lawrence than those which came overland. These, in many cases, consisted of small parties of non-combatants fleeing to join their relatives who had fought in the war and were now expecting to occupy their grants of land. Sackett's Harbour, Carleton Island, Oswego and Niagara, all held by the British, were points of rendezvous. Many came by way of the Hudson, Mohawk, Wood Creek and Lake Oneida to Oswego; some by the Hudson, Mohawk, West Canada Creek and Black River to Sackett's Harbour; others up the Hudson and across the Mohegan Mountains, down the Moose and Black Rivers to Sackett's Harbour or across the Oswegatchie to Ogdensburg; still others, up the Hudson and either across the mountains to the St. Lawrence or, by way of Lakes George and Champlain, to Sorel; while not a few crossed western New York and reached the British post at Niagara. There were difficulties to be encountered upon every course. Yet the help which the exiles were able to afford each other and their natural hardiness made the journey somewhat less formidable



than it would otherwise have been. The early flights to Sorel, undertaken by the families of Johnson's men, were apparently attended with more hardship than any of the later migrations by the western routes.

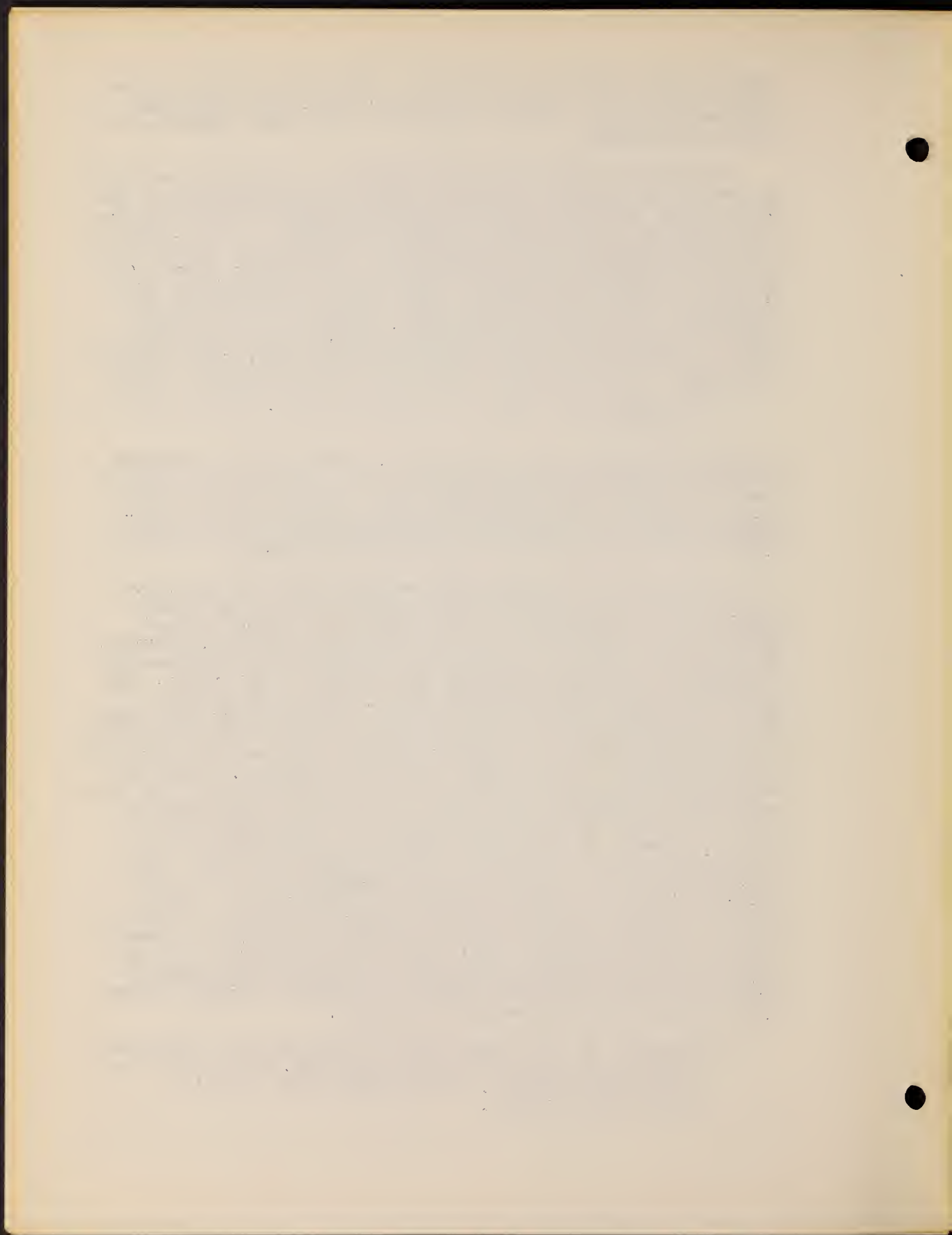
The region chosen for the settlement of the first Loyalists in the Bay of Quinte district is worthy of some attention. The selection of townships, if it occurred according to the tradition given at the beginning of our discussion, was the result of one consideration; the distance from the community centre which was early recognized to be Cataraqui. The advance guard led by Grass in 1783 had, indeed, gone as far as Ernesttown, but, finding the ground rocky where they landed, had returned to Cataraqui; and we may conclude that, having the first choice, they willingly established themselves around that promising town site.⁵ So Johnson, who seems to have been dissatisfied with the precedence given to Grass,¹⁰ chose the second township, Rogers

(¹⁰Ryerson, *The Loyalists of America*, vol. II, ch. xli, p. 208.)

and Van Alstine the third and fourth, until only the isolated Marysburgh remained for McDonnell's band, which did not come up the St. Lawrence until the next year. All the townships had excellent water communications and the only question of preference, aside from the value, yet undetermined, of the land, lay in the ease with which a town could be reached.

Of the untilled land in the region we may say that, for several reasons, to be considered shortly, it was not then organized into townships. Wolfe Island and Amherst Island tended to shut in and protect the area of settlement, providing the headlands which might later be converted into outposts for the defence of Kingston harbour and of the Bay of Quinte. The splendid command which the hill at Pt. Henry gave at once of river and harbour ensured its use as a military site and, since the military centre was destined, in that age, to become also a trading and commercial centre, it was not difficult to foresee the future growth of a city within the first township. Since the Rush-Bagot agreement was as yet in the distant future, the naval importance of Kingston was closely linked with its strategic value. With the definite surrender of the southern shore of the St. Lawrence to the United States the naval station at Carleton Island was placed in a very exposed position. When, therefore, the post was definitely ascertained to be within American waters, no reason remained for retaining it such as made the British loath to abandon Niagara or Detroit. Carleton Island, occupied in anticipation of the Revolution, had been strongly held throughout that period but the traders, who had made their centre there, had gone to Cataraqui and naturally wished that the post should follow; as did the settlers, whose market would thus be materially improved.¹¹

(¹¹Memorial of the Inhabitants of Kingston and Settlements Adjacent to Lord Dorchester, June 20, 1788. From the letter-book of Hon. Richard Cartwright, Queen's University Library.)



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The station was finally transferred in 1789 after Dorchester had considered the somewhat unfavourable report of the surveyor, Collins, upon Kingston harbour.

Concerning the history of the newly settled region prior to the coming of the Loyalists, there is little to relate apart from the romantic story of La Salle's seigneurie and the holding of Ft. Frontenac as an outpost of French dominion which is already so well known.

Caniff, though he does not state his sources,¹² has some

(¹²Caniff, Settlement of Upper Canada, ch. xii, p. 133)

very interesting information regarding the old Indian routes across Lake Ontario. The Mohawks frequently crossed from the south and Champlain has recorded for us his experiences on that unfortunate journey when he went with the Hurons to attack the Iroquois. Sometimes the motive of voyageurs was to hunt or fish, sometimes they were bent on war. They often skirted the southern coast as far as Wolfe Island and entered the Bay of Quinte through the lower or the upper 'gap' situated at the eastern and western ends of Amherst Island respectively. Those who were more adventurous could follow the chain of islands extending from Sacketts Harbour to Pt. Traverse on the Prince Edward side of the upper 'gap'.

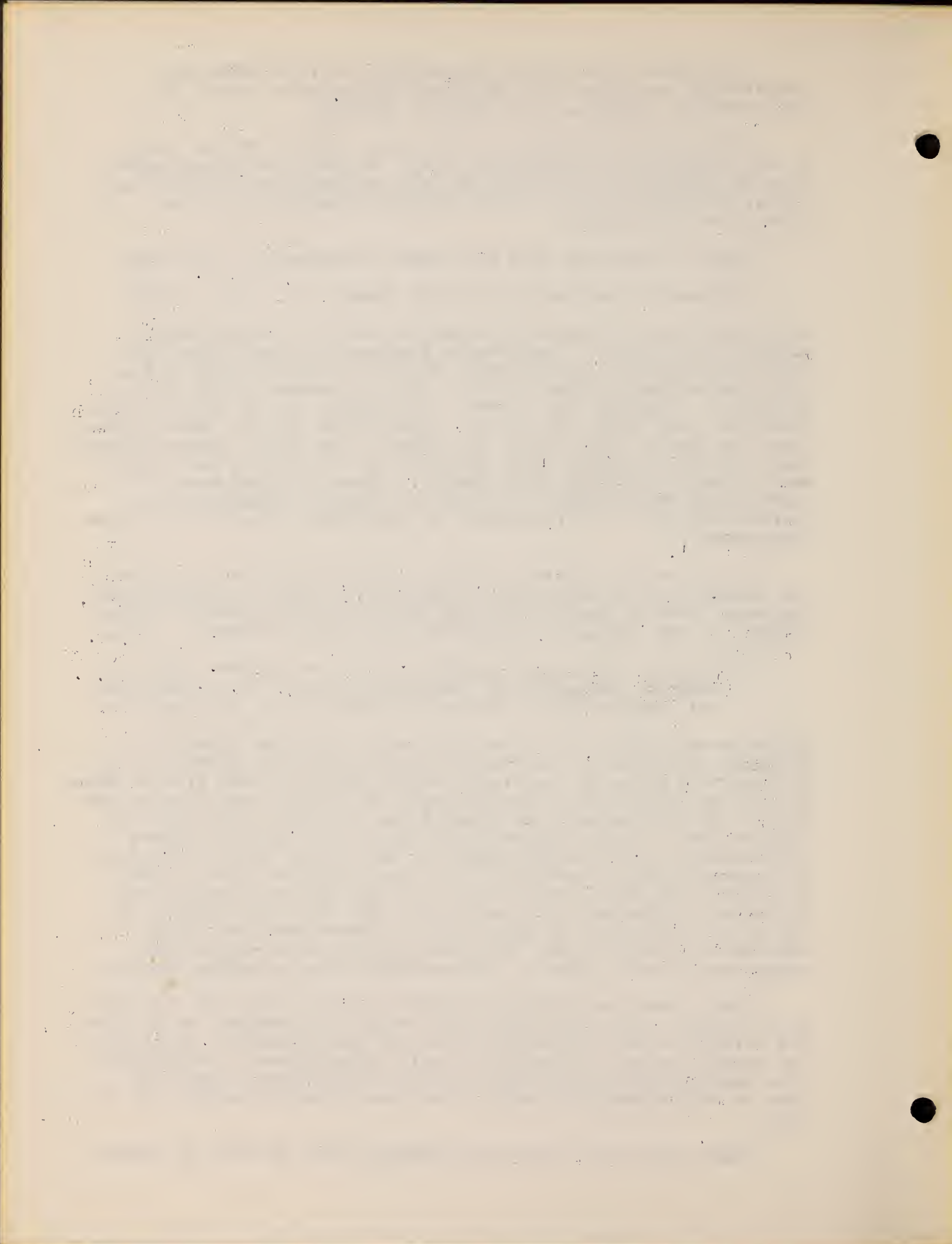
Dr. Coyne has pointed out that, although the Bay of Quinte was uninhabited in Champlain's time, yet, within the seventeenth century, numerous Indian villages had been established at various centres by the Cayugas, the Senecas, and other tribes.¹³ A map,

(¹³Ontario Historical Society. Papers and Records, vol. v. Toronto: Published by the Society, 1904. Ch. i, 'Discovery and Exploration of the Bay of Quinte'. Jas. H. Coyne, B.A.

dating about 1670, fixes Ganeyout, one of the more important villages, at Hay Bay, but the more famous Kante or Kente is very difficult to place and may have been moved about from time to time. It was the centre for a mission begun in 1668 by Abbes Trouve and Fenelon of the Seminary at Montreal and was later given over to the Recolets. Chesnel fixes Kente roughly at 'twenty leagues distances and it is certain that, at the coming of the Loyalists, no important Indian centre of that name could be found. Apart from the legal claim which could still be made to a portion of La Salle's seigneurie and, possibly, a few trappers lingering in the district or near the ruins of Fort Frontenac, but little remained to indicate that the cross and the fleur-de-lis had pushed their way up the St. Lawrence more than a century before.

Thus, when the Loyalists arrived, it was their task to open up a country which no man had ever seriously attempted to reclaim. Yet evidences were not wanting that the government for which they had fought was not unmindful of their necessities. The soldiers from Carleton Island had been employed in building a mill for them on the Rideau and dozens of men were already marking out the land.

There had been no lack of surveyors when the work of demar-



17

cation commenced. The profession was a profitable one on the expanding American colonies and many able men among the Loyalists had received more or less training in it during their youth. Holland, the head of the department, was, like many of his staff, a Loyalist. He was an engineer of British birth and wide experience and his appointment as Surveyor-General by Dorchester was the natural reward for his adherence to the Crown. A deputy of considerable influence, named John Collins, was appointed for the Bay district. Holland himself came and established his headquarters in Adolphustown in 1784, but Collins had done some work from Ft. Frontenac westward in the previous year. Collins and Holland differed on certain matters relating to the survey, particularly on the right of Van Alstine's band to settle in Adolphustown: on this point the will of the former prevailed.¹⁵

(¹⁵Third Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario. By Alexander Frazer, Provincial Archivist, 1905. Toronto; p. cxxix.)

The preceding pages of material are found in the bulletin, The United Empire Loyalist Settlements Between Kingston and Adolphustown, pg. 1 to top of page 12, inclusive.

ERROR: On the previous page, 4th paragraph, beginning Dr. Coyne ¹⁴. . 11th line should read "distant from the St. Lawrence", but the old maps have different distances and it is certain that, at the coming of the Loyalists, no important Indian centre of that name could be found.

(¹⁴Histoire de Cavelier de La Salle, P. Chesnel, Professeur Agrege de l'Universite. Paris: Librairie Orientale et Americaine. J. Maisonneuve, Editeur, p. 60.)

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The PURDY Family

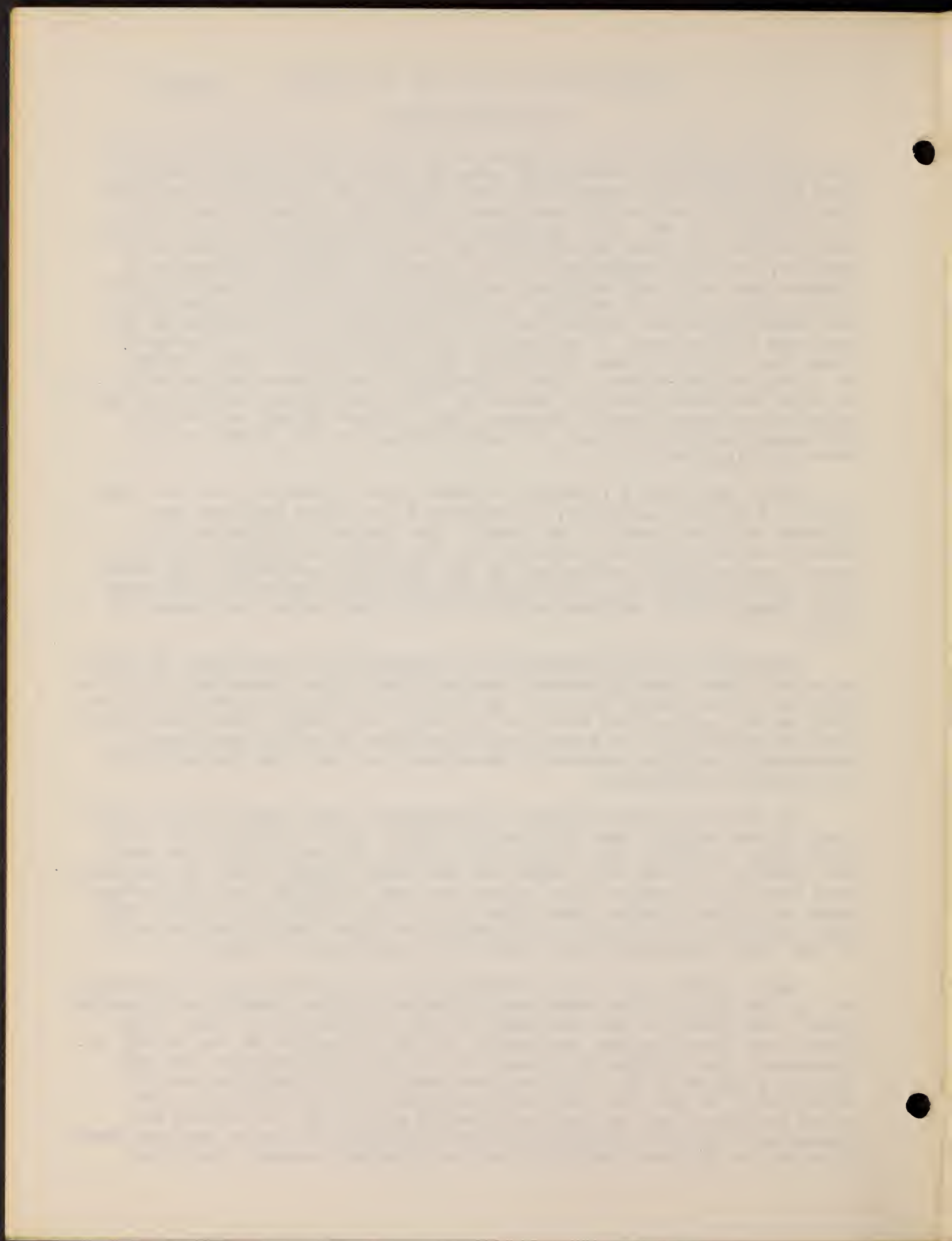
At the close of the American Revolution it became evident that, both from choice and necessity, many of those who had been identified with the Royal cause would be compelled to seek new homes under the protection of the British Crown. The first expeditions to be fitted out, had for their destination, New Brunswick or Nova Scotia. Many members of these expeditions ultimately found their way to Ontario, but this province--at that time the Western wilderness of Quebec--was not their original destination. The beginnings of Upper Canada dates from the drawing of lands by that party of loyalists, who established the "First Town", or "Kingston", still known as the township of Kingston. They sailed from New York in 1783, probably about the first of June, occupying six small vessels under convoy of a British man-of-war. They landed at Sorel, where the majority of them remained until the spring of 1784. Among the members of this party were Michael Grass, Barnabas Day, Gilbert Purdy, and others, who appear as the original lot owners along the Bay shore, on the Front of Kingston.⁷

These men pushed forward, selected their location near the head waters of the St. Lawrence, and returned for their families and friends, who had remained at Sorel. The project of planting a British colony upon the ruins of the old French settlement of Cataraqui, was cordially supported by the Imperial Government; the township was surveyed, the lots drawn and the entire party settled upon their farms in the neighborhood of Collins Bay before the summer of 1784.

Elsewhere has been graphically described the privations and hardships of these loyal pioneers; many of them had no experience in farming; there were among them but few mechanics; they had practically no live stock, and but few tools of any kind, and their stores were practically exhausted. To some extent they were aided by the Imperial Government, but the Commissary Department was not administered with very marked efficiency.

In spite of these adverse circumstances, the loyalists soon found their farms rapidly appreciating in value, and the majority of them left their children well to do; yet, today, in many cases, not only the estates, but the very names of the first settlers have disappeared. Some families, however, have shown far more virility; and the descendants of Gilbert Purdy, take them all in all, shine by contrast with many families that might be mentioned, who also trace their ancestry to the first expedition that laid the foundations of Ontario.

David Purdy, Sr.⁸ was a substantial and highly respected citizen, who at the time of his death was treasurer of the township of Kingston. After some years he was succeeded in this office by his son, David Purdy, who later became, and still is, the treasurer of the county of Frontenac. He resides at present in the city of Kingston, but the greater portion of his life has been spent in the neighborhood of Cataraqui. He was for some years engaged with Johnson Day in the brick business, but he has also devoted many years to farming and gardening. He has carefully studied the nature of soils and has demonstrated, in the most practical and satisfactory manner, how large



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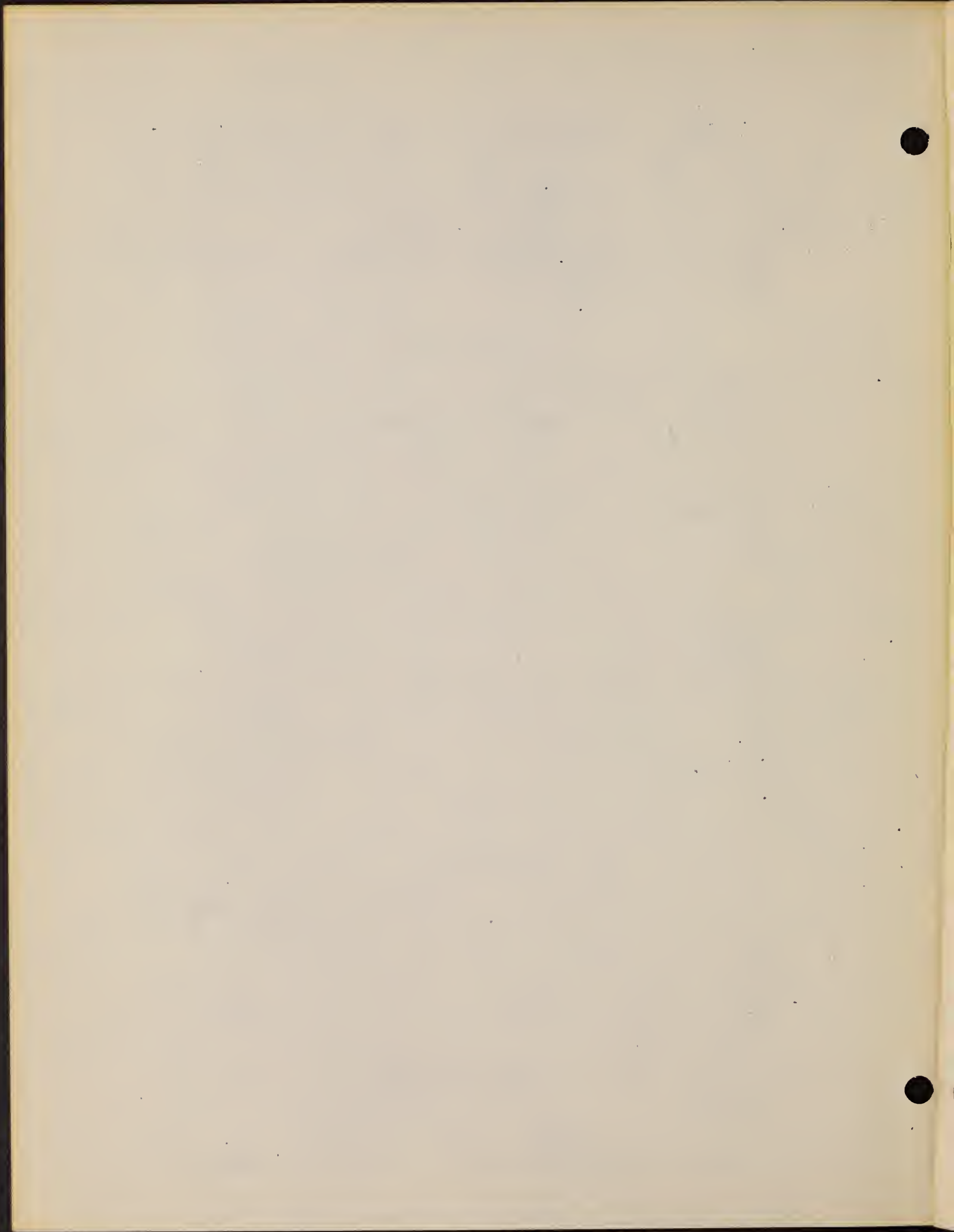
returns in cash may be realized from a small acreage under proper cultivation.

Mr. Purdy is a Liberal in Politics and an earnest member of the Methodist church. His fraternal affiliations include the I. O. F. and the A. O. U. W. He is a careful and methodical business man; generous but just; and contributing in his day and generation, to the upbuilding of our common country, no less than did his grandfather more than a century ago. His precept and example will be an inspiration to his descendants in retaining the honorable distinction that has accompanied the name of Purdy, from the first hour that British civilization found a refuge and established a new home in the vast empire of Western Canada.

GILBERT PURDY 9

THE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN:

1. David Purdy, married Mary Rees; settled in Kingston. Issue:
 - Mary
 - Grant
 - Amelia
 - Charles
 - Wellington
 - Anna
 - David
 - Amy Ann
 - Georgina
 - Isabella
 - Erastus
 - Rosina
2. Gilbert Purdy, married Lucy A. Laird; settled in Collins Bay. Issue:
 - James
 - David
 - Henry
 - John
 - Augustus M.
 - Thomas H. B.
 - Adeline
 - Hester A.
3. Daniel Purdy, married Miss Ferris
4. Jesse Purdy, married Sarah Laird; settled in Elginburgh. Issue:
 - Marshall
 - Elijah
 - Ferdinand
 - Robert
 - Sydenham
 - Anna
 - Mary J.
5. James Purdy, married and settled in the West. Issue:
 - Victoria
 - Malcolm
 - Rhoda
6. Harriet Purdy, married John Moore; settled at Cataraqui.



7. ----- Purdy, married Mr. Aikins; settled in Collins Bay.

8. Hosea Purdy, married Mary Wartman 1793-1870. Issue:
 Barney 1813
 Hosea 1823
 Lewis 1819
 Wesley 1829

9. Macdagg (Micajah?) Purdy married ----- . Issue:
 Gilbert
 Elizabeth

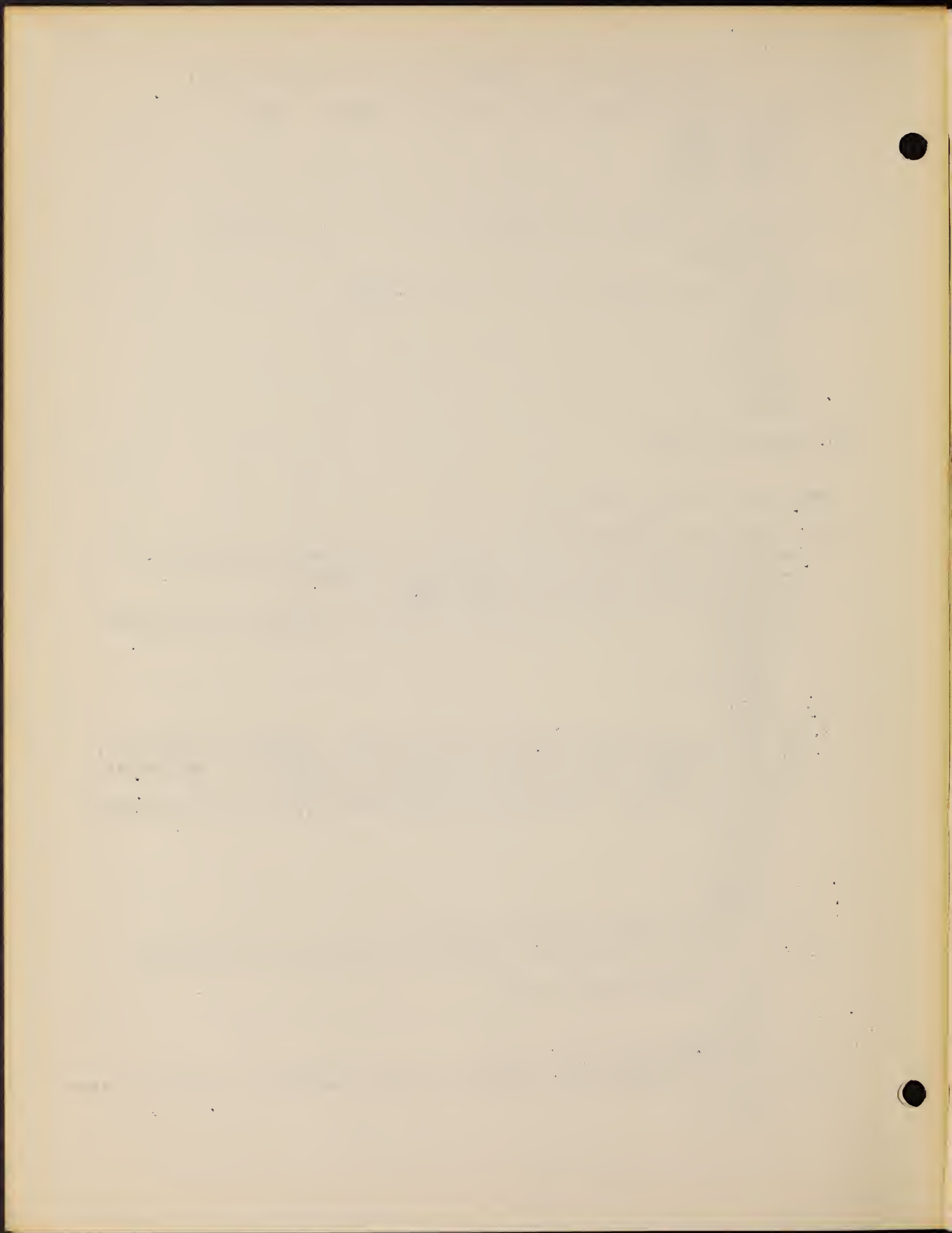
10. Samuel Purdy, married ----- . Issue:
 Thomas
 John
 Albert
 Marinda
 Mary
 Lucy

11. Charlotte Purdy

The Grandchildren and issue:

See 1. The David Purdy branch:

1. Mary Purdy, married Joseph Nickol; settled at Cataraqui.
2. Grant Purdy, unmarried; settled in Montana.
3. Amelia Purdy, married Johnson Day.
4. Charles Purdy, married Martha Kendall; settled at Cataraqui.
 Issue:
 Erastus
 Charles
 Frederick
 James
 Thomas
5. Wellington Purdy, married Amelia Rees; settled at Cataraqui.
6. Anna Purdy, married Rev. Martin Bates; settled at Cataraqui.
7. David Purdy, married Bessie Wilder. Issue:
8. Amy Ann Purdy, married Frederick Foote; settled in Cleveland.
 Issue:
 Harry
 Thomas
 Amelia
 Frank
 Arthur
9. Georgina Purdy, married H. Wilson
10. Isabella Purdy, married Henry Rees; settled at Cataraqui.
 Issue:
 Eva, married Percy Ward
 Lulu
 Harry
 Josephine
11. Erastus Purdy, died young.
12. Rosina Purdy, married John Valentine; settled in Toronto. Issue:
 John
 Florence



PIONEER LIFE ON THE BAY OF QUINTE

Resume by Dr. H. C. Burleigh

The Daly Family

Emmeline (David Daly and Miss Thomas, Peter Daly), married Thomas Purdy. Her father had settled in Cataraqui.

Absalom Shibley (Henry Shibley and Charlotte Day, John Shibley and Ellen Gordonier), married Catherine Purdy. Issue:
Ida, married John J. Leslie.
John H., married Margaret Kingston.

The Grass Family 10

Robert Everett Grass (Peter Grass and Esther Everett, Michael Grass), married first, Nancy Purdy; second Mrs. Gaitrey Hagerman (nee Ketcheson); settled in Sidney.
Children by first wife:
Peter Grass, married Annie Bonisteel.
Deborah Grass, married Dr. Bolter, M.P.; settled in Stirling.
Esther Ann Grass, married Dr. Demorest; settled in Stirling.
Ruliff Grass, married, first Miss Rowe; and second Sarah Rankin (nee Jones); settled in Frankford and finally in Toronto.

The Ebenezer Palmer Family //

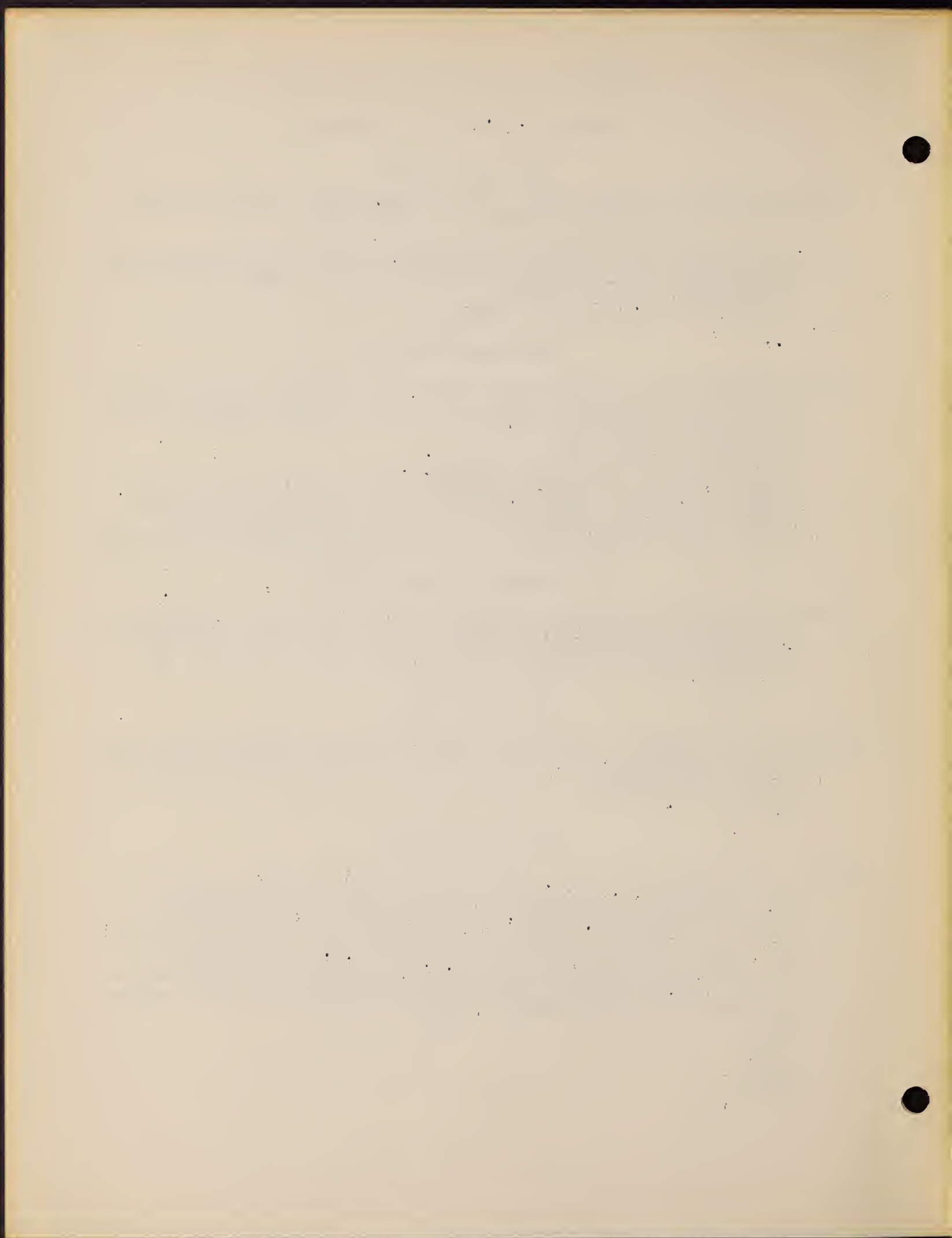
James I. Palmer (Ebenezer), married first Agnes Foster, and second Hannah Purdy, third Eliza Phipps, and fourth Betsy Spencer. The first wife, Agnes Foster, died in 1848, aged 30 years. No children listed for second marriage.

The Cory Family

Harry R. Cory (David P. Cory and Mary A. Osborn, Abner Cory and Jean Pierson, Eliakim Cory), married Nettie Purdy; settled in Woodbridge, Man. Issue:
Ethel.

The Lyon Family

John W. Edwards, B.A., M.D., eighth child and youngest son of George and Elizabeth Lyon Edwards, married Hester Jane, daughter of the late Robert G. Purdy. He is a practicing physician at Cataraqui, formerly Waterloo, near Kingston, and is also County Clerk of Frontenac, to which position he was appointed, in June 1889. He obtained his B.A. and M.D. degrees from Queen's College in 1900, having put himself through without one dollar assistance from any person. Issue:
Edna
Morden
Sadie
Evelyn
Elizabeth



Ostrom. 12

Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte.

(Resume by H. C. Burleigh, M.D.)

Ruliff Ostrom, or Roeloff Osterum, as it was originally spelled, came from The Hague and settled in the colony of New York before the War of the Revolution. There were three brothers in the family, Ruliff, Henry A., and John. The two latter joined the colonists, but Ruliff remained loyal, and he and his son Daniel fought in the royal ranks. It is said that during the war Ruliff was engaged to carry despatches through the enemy's lines, and that on one occasion he had the despatch in a silver bullet, which he put in his mouth. Being in danger of detection he took the bullet from his mouth as he would a piece of tobacco and cast it into the fire and thus escaped. It is also said that this old loyalist was engaged at the Battle of Bunker Hill and was present at the surrender of Montgomery.

At the close of the war Ruliff Ostrom, with his wife and son Daniel, started for the wilds of Western Canada to hew out a new home for themselves where they might still live under the old flag. They came up the Bay and drew land on the Front of Sidney about five miles west of where Belleville now stands, and the Ostroms were one of the first three or four families to settle in Sidney. Here, in the early days, the old pioneer kept tavern, and Sir Isaac Brock once stopped at this tavern on his way from Kingston to Little York; and while there took the Ostrom baby from its pioneer cradle and kissed it. Needless to add, the baby was christened Isaac Brock, and in the family history is known as "Brock", son of Daniel and grandson of the pioneer.

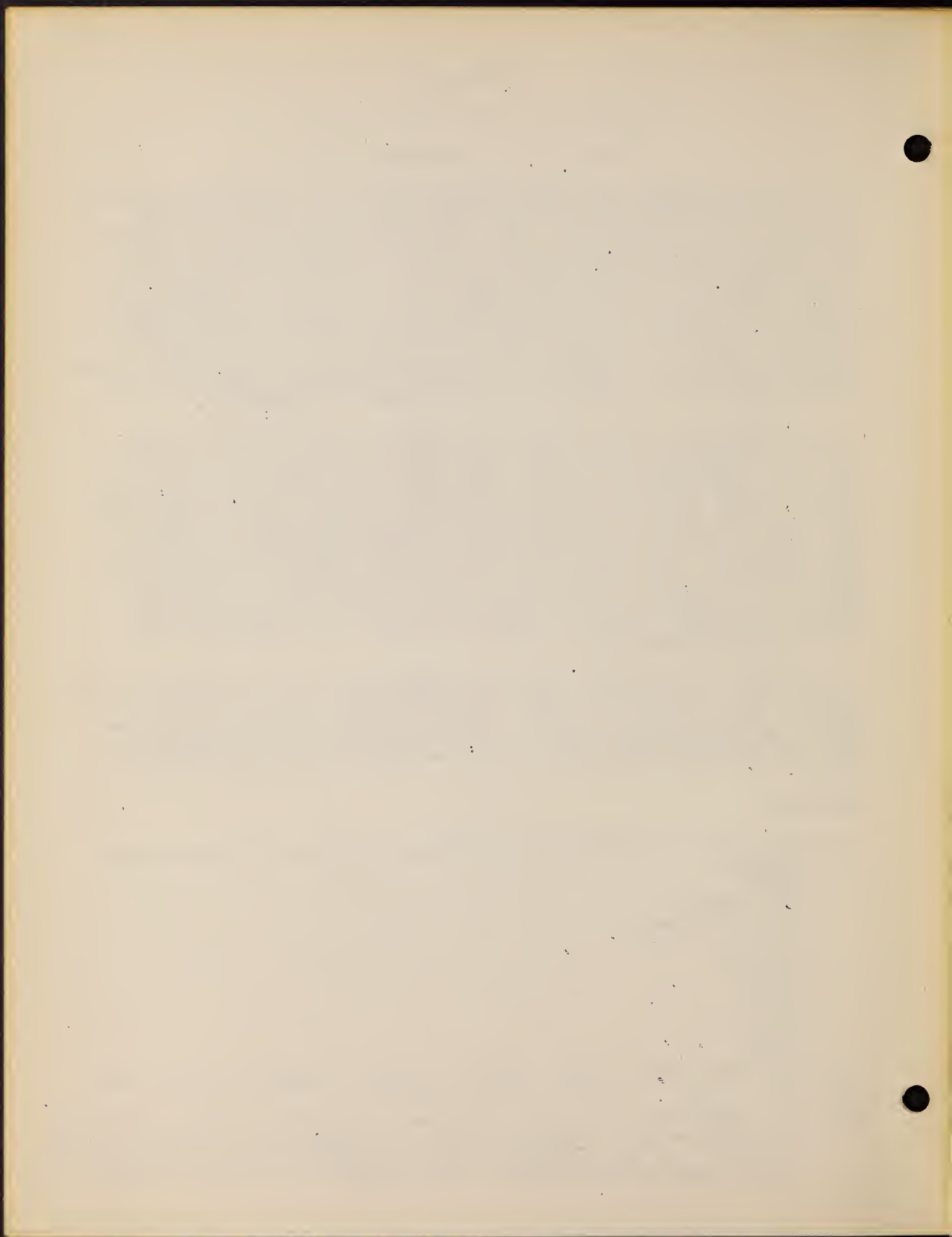
Ruliff Ostrom married Elizabeth Yelverton, or as otherwise spelled, Yarrington. He was married at Albany, New York, before he came to Canada. He had one son, Daniel, born in Albany, who fought with his father in the Revolutionary War. The old pioneer died in 1802, in his seventy-fifth year; and his wife in 1807, in her seventy-fifth year.

Children:

1. Daniel Ostrom, married Isabella Chrysler; settled in Sidney. Issue:
 - Simeon.
 - Daniel.
 - Isaac Brock.
 - John Mackintosh.
 - Henry.
 - Minerva.
 - Martha.
 - Maria.
 - Harriet.
 - Nancy.
 - Sarah.

The father died in 1846, aged 75 years; the mother in 1852, aged 83 years.

Note: The book from which this was taken is one prepared from information supplied by the particular family. In most cases the story is much colored. In this particular case, please note that Daniel, born in 1771, fought in the Loyalist forces--which, of course, I doubt. H.C.B.



Ostrum, Ruliph, died 17 Feb., 1818.

Children:

1. Daniel, of Sidney (died 1846, aged 75) Order-in-Council Oct. 1809.
2. Sarah, married Roswell Leavens of Thurlow do
7 Aug. 1810.
3. Abigail, married David Purdy of Ernesttown 12 do
7 Aug. 1810.
4. Diana, married Abel Gilbert of Sidney 12 do
16 Feb. 1811.
5. Martha, married John McIntosh of Thurlow do
7 May 1811.
6. Jane, married Samuel Wm. Marsh of Hope do
26 Mar. 1817.
7. Anthony of Sidney do
26 June 1817.
8. Martha (see above), married secondly, Donald McLellan of Thurlow.

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Church Records, New York State

(Copied in State Library, Albany, N.Y.)

Dutch Reformed Church, Schaghticoke.

Baptisms

1769, Oct. 21--Elizabeth, born d. 5, daughter of Joseph Conklin and Machtel Ostrum.

Poughkeepsie Presbyterian Church

Baptisms

1764, April 14--Abigail, daughter of Ruloph Ostrum.

First Reformed Dutch Church, Poughkeepsie.

Marriages.

1747, Nov. 13--Roelop Ostrum, young man, born in Fishkill, resides at Nine Partners, and Maria Ostrum, young woman.

Resume H. C. Burleigh, M.D.

THE DAY FAMILY 13

Barnabas Day (Barnabas, U.E., & Polly Burdett), died 1807, married Rhoda Purdy (Wartman). Children born between 1797 and 1807. (see Gilbert Purdy Sr.)

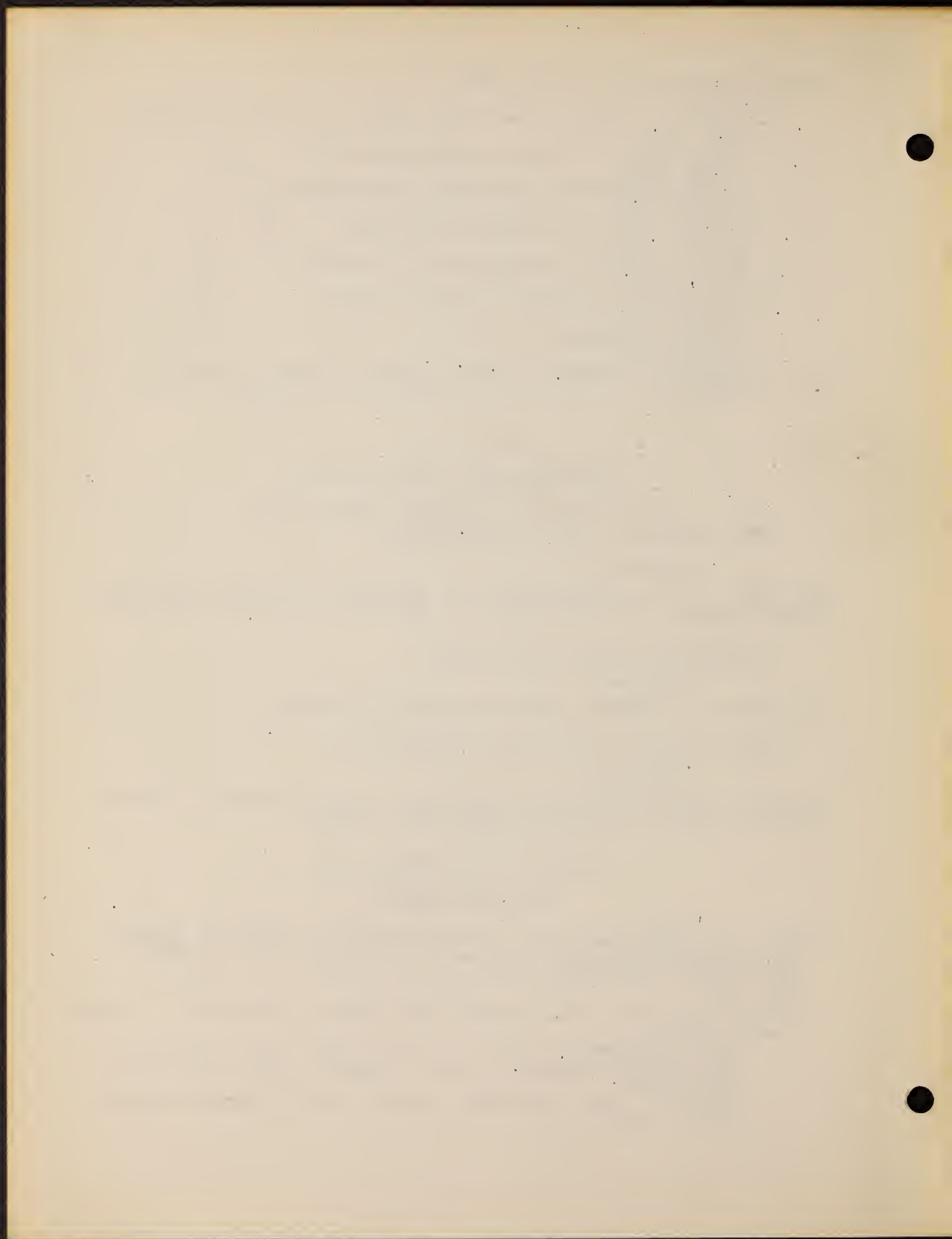
Their son:

Absalom Day, 1801 (2?), married Emily Shibley, 1811-1884. Absalom died in 1874.

Their children:

Horatio Day, 1849-1904, married Alameda Purdy, 1849-1913. (see below)

Charles M. Day, 1852-1881, married Mary Ann Purdy, daughter of L.W. Purdy.



Catheran Purdy, married Absalom Shibley, 1839-1873, son of Charlotte Day & Henry Shibley.

Eliza Ann, daughter of Samuel D. Purdy, married 31 Dec., 1857, Henry Day, M.D. He b. 1831. ¹⁴

Cornelia Purdy, married Johnston Day, (Lewis Day & Polly Hill). He b. about 1814.

Hosea Purdy, married Mary Wartman, 1793-1870, dau. of Barnabus Wartman and Hannah Day.

Their children:

1. Martha Purdy, 1811-1875, married Wm. A. Wood.
2. Barnabas W. Purdy, 1813-1862, married Miriam Spike, 1814-1900.
3. Jerushia Purdy, 1815- , married Issac Lake, of Inverary.
4. Gilbert Purdy, 1817-
5. Lewis W. Purdy, 1819-1890, married Charlotte Wright, 1814-1899.

Their Children:

Almeda Purdy, 1849-1913, married Horatio Day, 1849-1904.
(see above)

Mary Ann Purdy, married first, Charles Day, 1852-1881.
(see above), secondly, Alfred Hunter.

6. Hannah Purdy, 1820- married Nathan Wood.
7. Solomon Purdy, 1822- married
8. Hosea Purdy, 1823-1910, married Mary Ann Sparling.
9. John Wesley Purdy, 1829-1910, married Ermina Caldwell. He gathered original Purdy & Wartman Records. ¹⁵

Had a family of eight:

10. Fletcher. }
11. Whitfield. } all died young.
12. Moses }
13. Malissa Purdy, -1905, married John Campsell.

SHIBLEY GENEALOGY

Henry Shibley (John² John¹) (1792-1875) married Charlotte Day (1799-1852) daughter of Barnabas Day and Rhoda Purdy. ¹⁶

Absalom Shibley (Henry³ John² John¹) (1839-1875) married Catherine Purdy.

Ida, married W. J. Leslie.

John H. (died Haileybury Sept. 20, 1928) married M. Kingston.

John Amey (Betsey (John² John¹) and Joseph Amey) married ---- Purdy.

Horatio Day (Emily (Jacob³ John² John¹) and Absalom Day) married ----- Purdy. child Eleda Day.

Charles Day (brother of Horatio above) married ----- Purdy.

children: Ernest D.

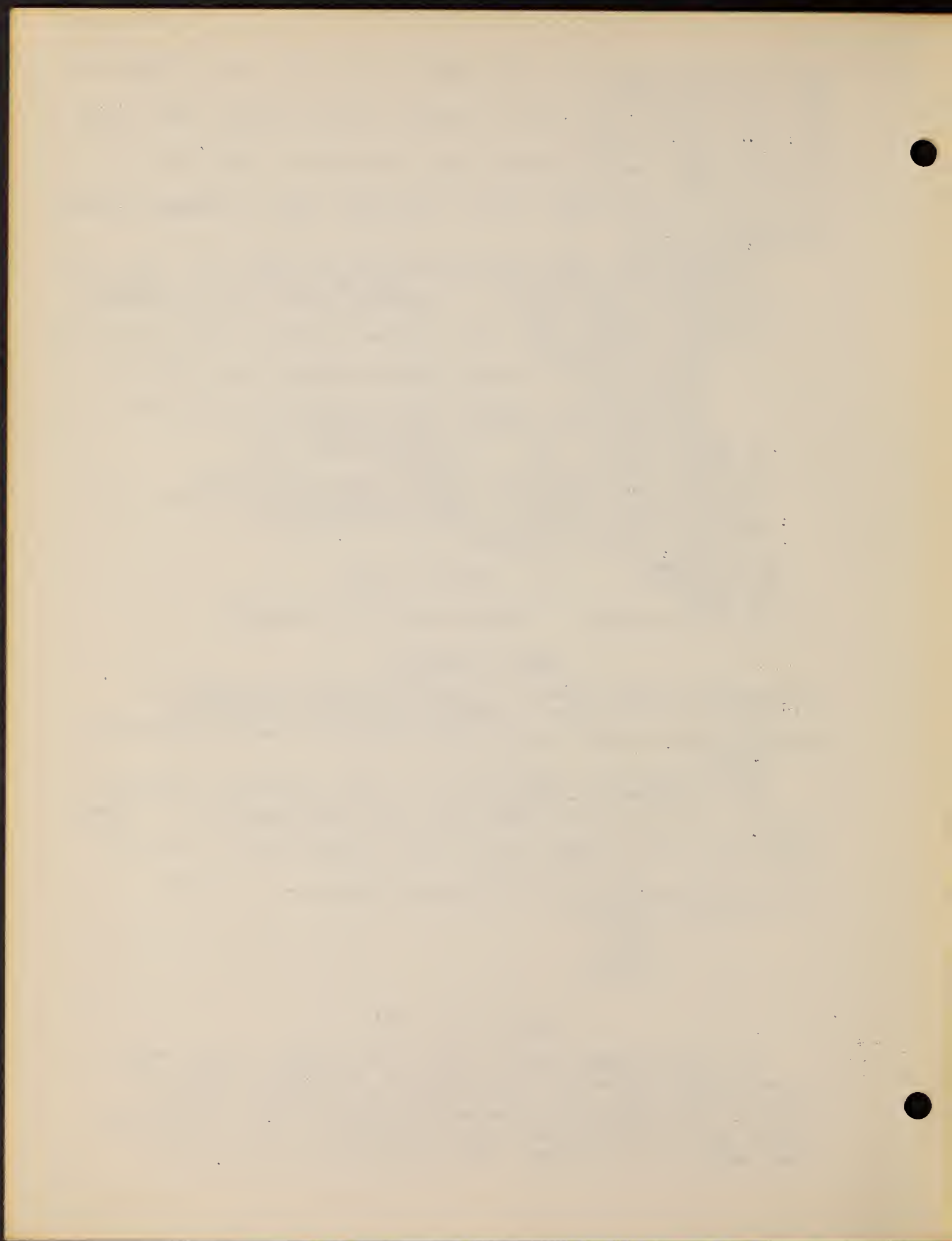
Percy

Ida

Morley

September 8, 1954

Mr. Wilson Robert Purdy, aged 84, of Detroit, Mich., here renewing acquaintances. He was born in Elginburg in 1870, son of Robert Purdy, whose wife was a Werden, of Kingston Township. Wilson's grandfather was Jesse whose wife was a Lard or Laird. Robert had two brothers who died in Toronto and two sisters, Mrs. Archibald and Mrs. Counter whose husband kept a hotel on the



Sydenham Road about 3 miles north of Cataragui.

Wilson, when grown, farmed on Burley Street, Ernesttown (between 3 & 4 concession), north of Bath. He later moved to Detroit where he now lives.

He had heard of Hazard Purdy, vaguely, but did not claim relationship. The same applies to Micajah.

Hartford Times, March 5, 1955

Answer to:

B 7070 Purdy (1) P.W. Oct. 23, 1954

The (undated) will of Susanah (1st husband was Ogden) Sutton of the West Palent of North Castle, widow of Thomas Sutton late of Greenwich. Legacy to Rachel, wife of Thomas Purdy and her three sons, Gilbert, Stephen and Jesse.

Ref. early wills of Westchester Co. N.Y. (Pellestreau).

G. H. Detlor Diary

John Valentine Detlor, b. Ireland, d. 1798, Came to America and settled first in New York City and then in Camden in the "countre". At the Rebellion (Am. Rev.) he joined the British and, after the war, settled in Fredericksburgh Township. He married Catherine Hill who d. 10 Mar., 1826.

1. son John b. May 2, 1769; d. April 28, 1813, married Jerusha Simmons.

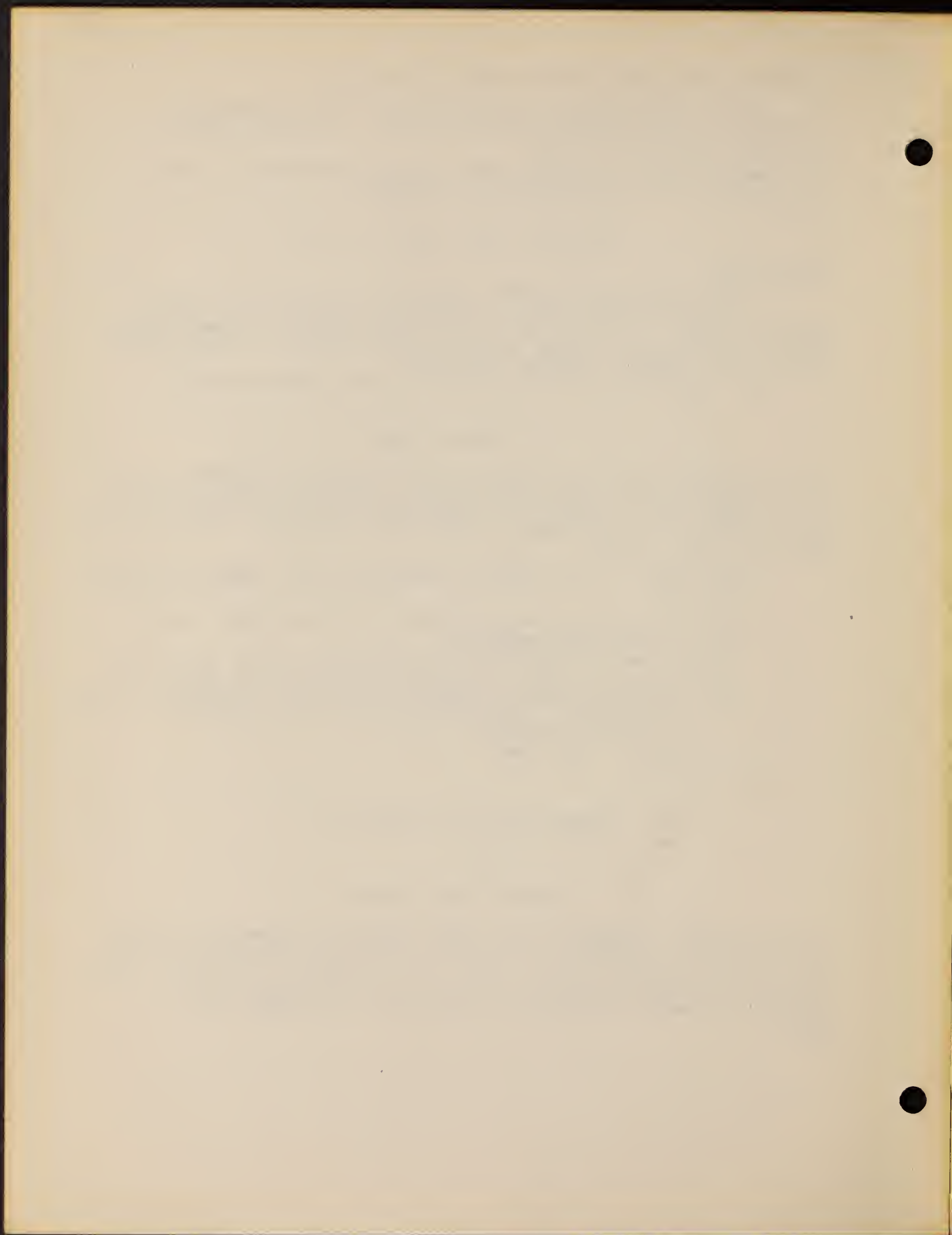
2. dau. Ann married Neagh Purdy as his third wife (she died three years after marriage.
three sons (two killed in a well 14 Aug. 1867)
He then married Mary Embury (?daughter of John Embury and his wife Mary Detlor, sister of his third wife Ann?) and had:
two daughters. They both married to D. Beamish of Waterloo village.
Issue: four sons

Loyalist Clarks & Badgleys

by

Estelle Clark Watson

John Abbott, ¹⁷ who married Mary Purdy, daughter of David and Abigail (Ostrum) Purdy, Loyalists (formerly of Newburgh, Ulster Co., N.Y., who settled on Lot 42 of the first Concession of Ernesttown) After John's death, Mary married an Ellerbeck, probably the Loyalist Emanuel, a native of England who had lived in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.



SONS & DAUGHTERS OF U.E.

PURDY 2

BRUNDAGE, John, of Yonge, Soldier in Delancey's Corps of Refugees.

dau. Elizabeth, wife of William Purdy, of Yonge (see p.1)
O.C. 18 June 1799

CAVERLEY, Joseph, of Thurlow.

son Joseph F., of Kingston, married Mary Purdy O.C. 29 Sept 1824
(see p. 4)

EMBURY, John, of Fredericksburgh; wife, Mary -----.

dau. Mary, baptized 25 Jan. 1789, wife of Micajah Purdy, of
Kingston. O.C. 5 June 1810

EVERETTE, John, of Kingston, married Mercy, daughter of Gilbert Purdy, Sr.,
U.E. He died 28 June, 1825, aged 82 years. (see p.1)

GOLDSMITH, Thomas, of Hallowell, married Asenath Conger. 18

dau. Asenath, married, 1 May, 1816, Gilbert Purdy, of Hallowell
O.C. 19 Apr. 1820

HERCHMER, Capt. Hanyost, of Kingston, married Mary -----, who died in
Aug., 1805. He died at Kingston in Aug., 1795.

son Nicholas, of Kingston, married Charlotte Purdy.
He died in 1809. (see p.1) O.C. 17 Nov 1797

HOUGH, Asa, of Fredericksburgh, married Eleanor, daughter of William
Bell Sr., U.E., of Fredericksburgh, 11 May, 1790.

dau. Flora, baptized 16 April, 1797, married Micajah Purdy, of
Kingston. O.C. 3 Feb. 1834

MCLAREN, Peter, Lieut., Jessup's Corps, married Mary ----- Marcy, 1784;
she married 2ndly Samuel Wright, of Elizabethtown.

dau. Nancy (Anna), wife of Samuel Purdy, of Elizabethtown.
O.C. 17 Nov. 1797

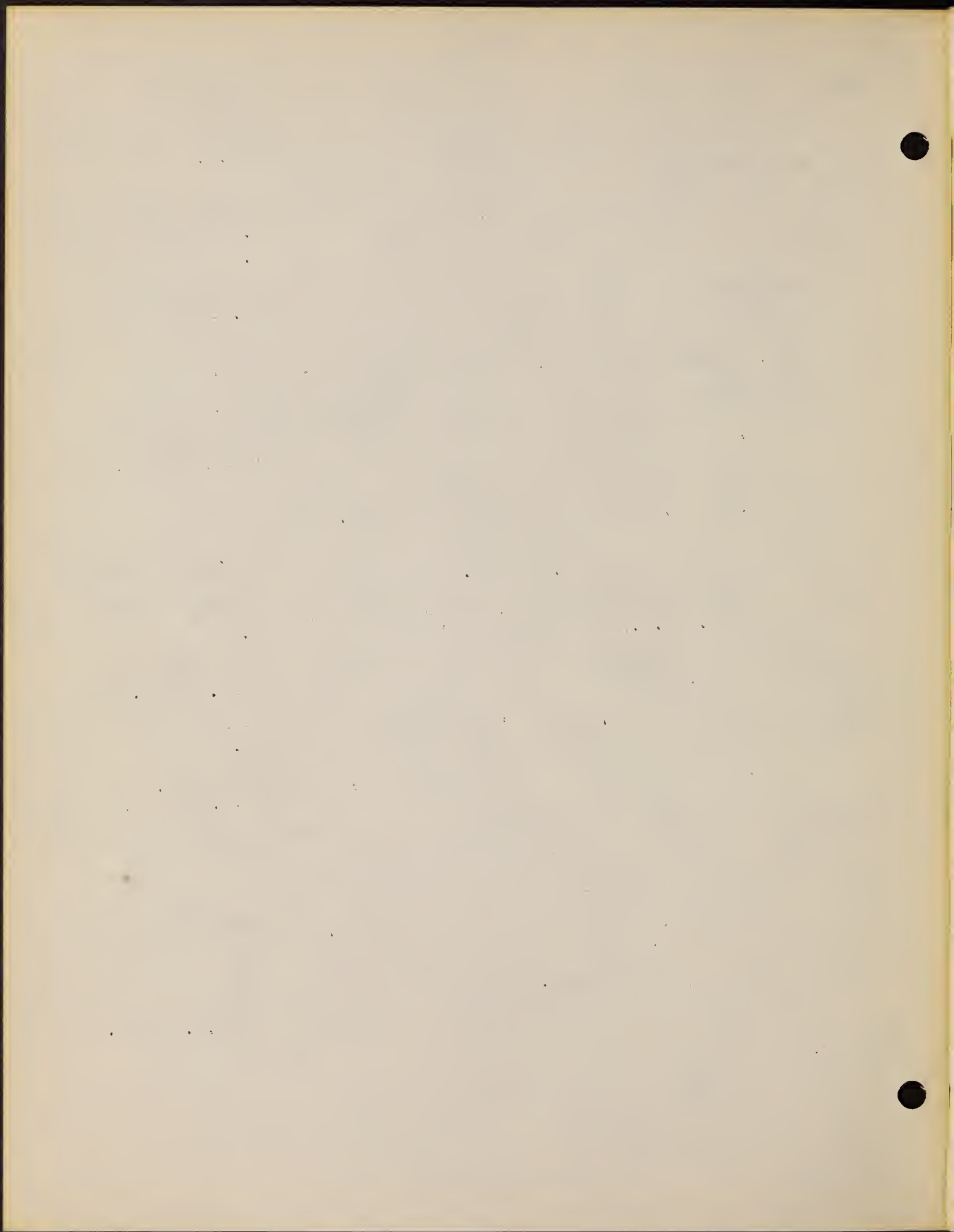
MONTGOMERY, Archibald (schoolmaster), married Susannah, dau. of Jesse and
Ruth (Kennicot) Purdy.

MUNRO, Daniel, of Yonge.

son Timothy, of Markham, married, 10 Sept. 1824 Hulda Purdy
He died 1892.

OSTRUH, Ruliph, died 17 Feb., 1818

dau. Abigail, wife of David Purdy, of Ernesttown. O.C. 7 Aug. 1810



27

Toronto's First Bank - 1818 19

The Bank of Montreal which today has 37 offices in Toronto and district, was the pioneer bank in Toronto; in fact it has been in active business in Toronto probably longer than any other financial organization in the city today.

Founded at a time when trading was largely done by barter, the establishment in 1817 of the Bank of Montreal, the first permanent banking institution in this country, was an event of importance to commerce and industry.

Toronto at that time did not exist, but near what is now the harbour front there was a primitive settlement of a little more than one thousand inhabitants known as York. It was an outpost for lumbering and the fur trade, which industries formed the only basis for the export business of the country.

For the convenience of the traders at this outpost, the Bank of Montreal appointed an agent at York in July, 1818, eight months after the Bank itself was founded, thus providing the first banking service which the settlement had known. At that time railways were unknown, no steamship had ever crossed the ocean, electric light and power were undreamed of, and even illumination by gas had yet to come.

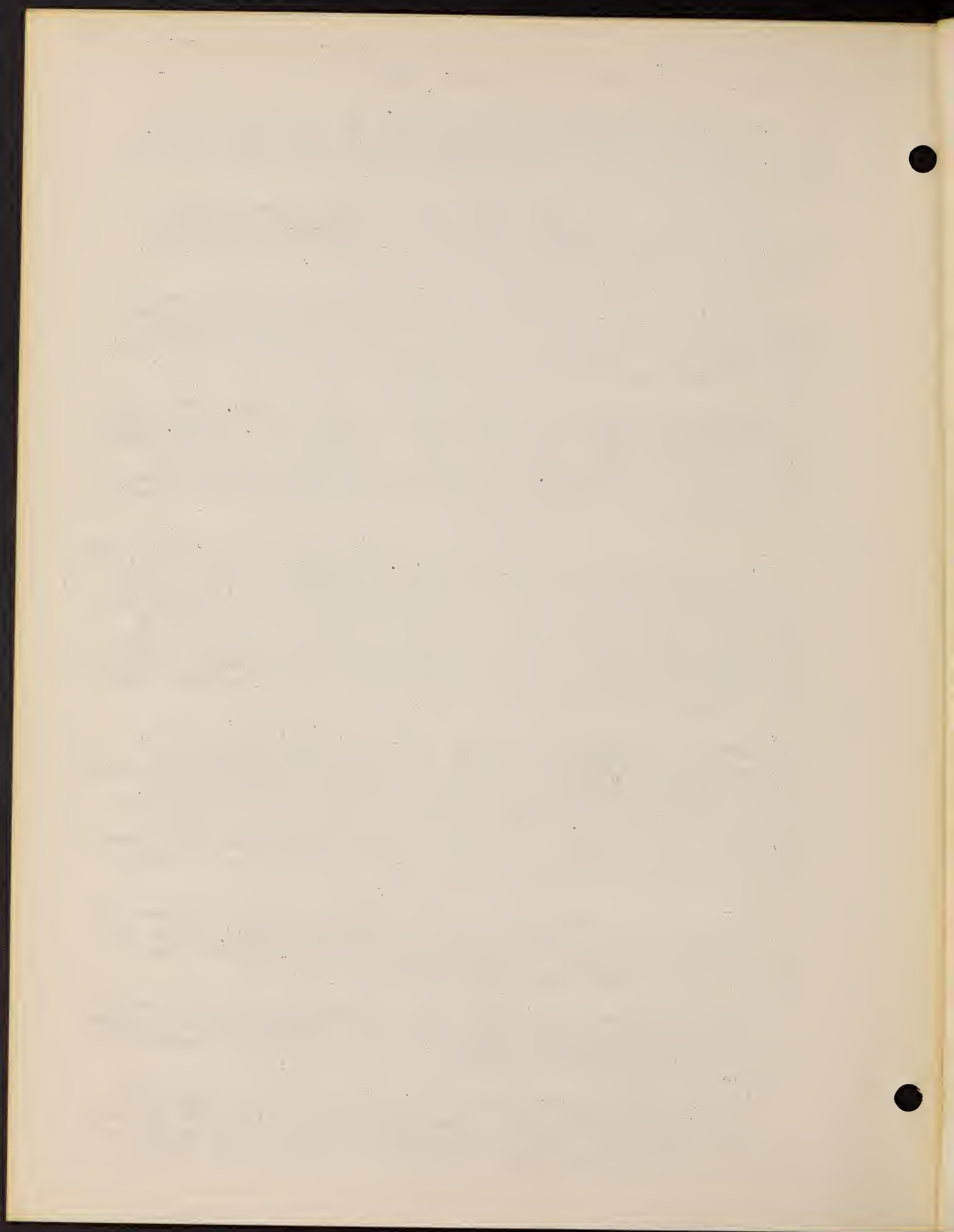
It is interesting to note from the history of those early days that up to within a short time of the appointment of this agent at York, transportation between Montreal and York had been by the water route in summer, while in winter the mails were carried over the forest trails on the backs of men. In 1816, to quote from an account of pioneer methods of transportation, "the first stage was established between Montreal and Kingston by Barnabas Dickinson," while in January, 1817, "Samuel Purdy established the first stage between Kingston and York."

Covered sleighs left "Samuel Hodge's establishment in St. Paul Street, Montreal and "Robert Walker's Hotel in Kingston" every Monday and Thursday, and arrived every Wednesday and Saturday. Similarly, covered sleighs left "Daniel Brown's Inn, Kingston, every Monday, and York every Thursday." Thus the journey between Montreal and York, and vice-versa, occupied at least a week. When navigation opened, the stages between Prescott and York were discontinued till the winter came again, as there was a steamboat on this route.

A sidelight on the nature of the journey between Montreal and York is furnished by the old minute books of the Bank, which frequently refer to plans for the despatch of money between the two places "at the first safe opportunity."

Except for the relatively small clearing in which the settlement was situated, most of the site of the present city of Toronto was covered by an immense forest; indeed, practically the whole province was covered by forests.

As the community developed, the Bank of Montreal gradually increased its accommodation. The main office of the Bank in this city was established on the present site in 1842, only eight years after the municipality was incorporated as the City of Toronto.



DAVID PURDY ELDEST SON OF GILBERT PURDY OF NEWBURGH 20

Compiled by Dr. H. C. Burleigh

Records of 1844

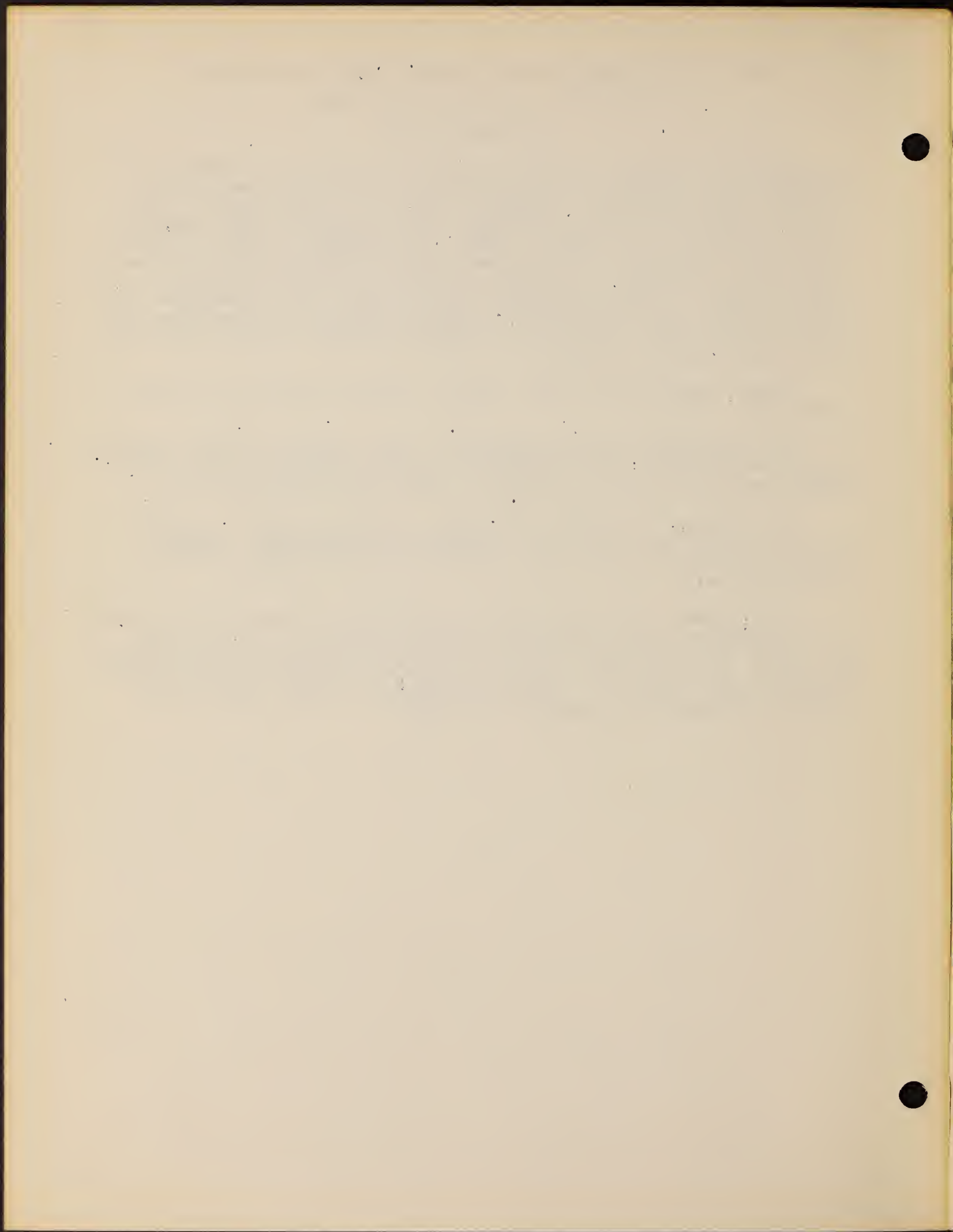
Mr. David Purdy located in the last lot, No. 42, (Township of Ernesttown). He married Miss Abigail Ostrum, whose connections settled in the Township of Sidney. They had a large family, most of whom are still living, and two of their youngest sons, Samuel & Joseph, now reside on the old farm. The old man is dead, but his widow still survives. Their oldest son, Gilbert married Miss Asenath Goldsmith, of Hallowell Township. Ruliff, another son married a Widow Gilbert, whose maiden name was Clapp of Fredericksburgh. They lived and died in the Township of Sidney, where he became a wealthy and prominent man. David was accidentally shot and killed when a boy by his cousin, John Everitt.

Samuel married Eliza and Joseph, Minerva, daughter of Samuel Lockwood.

John and Jacob married daughters of Mr. Fretts, Fredericksburgh. Elizabeth married a Mr. Woodward. He died and she married again. Mary married an Abbott. He died and she married an Ellerbeck.

David Purdy's brothers, Micajah, Gilbert and Samuel settled in the Township of Kingston. They had large families. Samuel removed to some distant place. Gilbert is still living, he was married twice.

Micajah who died lately was married five times and was the father of 23 children, nine of whom and his last wife are still living. His first two wives were sisters by the name of Sands, of Newburgh, New York. The third was Miss Ann Detlor, of Fredericksburgh; the fourth a Miss Embury, a niece of the third; and the fifth a Miss Mehetabel Holmes, of Newburgh, New York.



SONS & DAUGHTERS OF U.E. 21

PURDY 1

By Dr. H. C. Burleigh, M.D.

PURDY, Gilbert, Sr., Guides & Pioneers, married Mary -----. Lived at New Burgh, Ulster Co., New York. Died in 1778.

son David, of Ernesttown, U.E.	
son Gilbert, of Kingston	O.C. 7 June 1800
son Micajah, of Kingston	
son Samuel, of Kingston	26 Mar. 1817
dau. Mercy, wife of John Everett, of Kingston	3 Mar. 1809
dau. Rhoda <i>married Barnabas Day</i>	
dau. Mary	
dau. Charlotte, wife of Nicholas Herchmer, of Kingston	17 Nov. 1779

PURDY, David, of Ernesttown, married Abigail, daughter of Ruliph Ostrum, U. E.

son Gilbert, of Ernesttown	O.C. 15 Feb. 1810
son Ruliph, of Ernesttown	20 Feb. 1810
dau. Elizabeth	26 Mar. 1817
son Samuel D., of Ernesttown	12 Jul. 1820
son Micajah D., of Ernesttown	12 Jul. 1820
dau. Mary, wife of John Abbott, of Kingston	12 Jul. 1820
son John, of Sidney	1 Dec. 1836
son Jacob, of Ernesttown	1 Dec. 1836
son Joseph, of Ernesttown	5 Feb. 1835

PURDY, Gilbert Jr., of Kingston. He was born Jan. 1762, son of Gilbert Purdy Sr., who was killed in the Revolutionary War in 1778 (see 13) 2 Sidney).

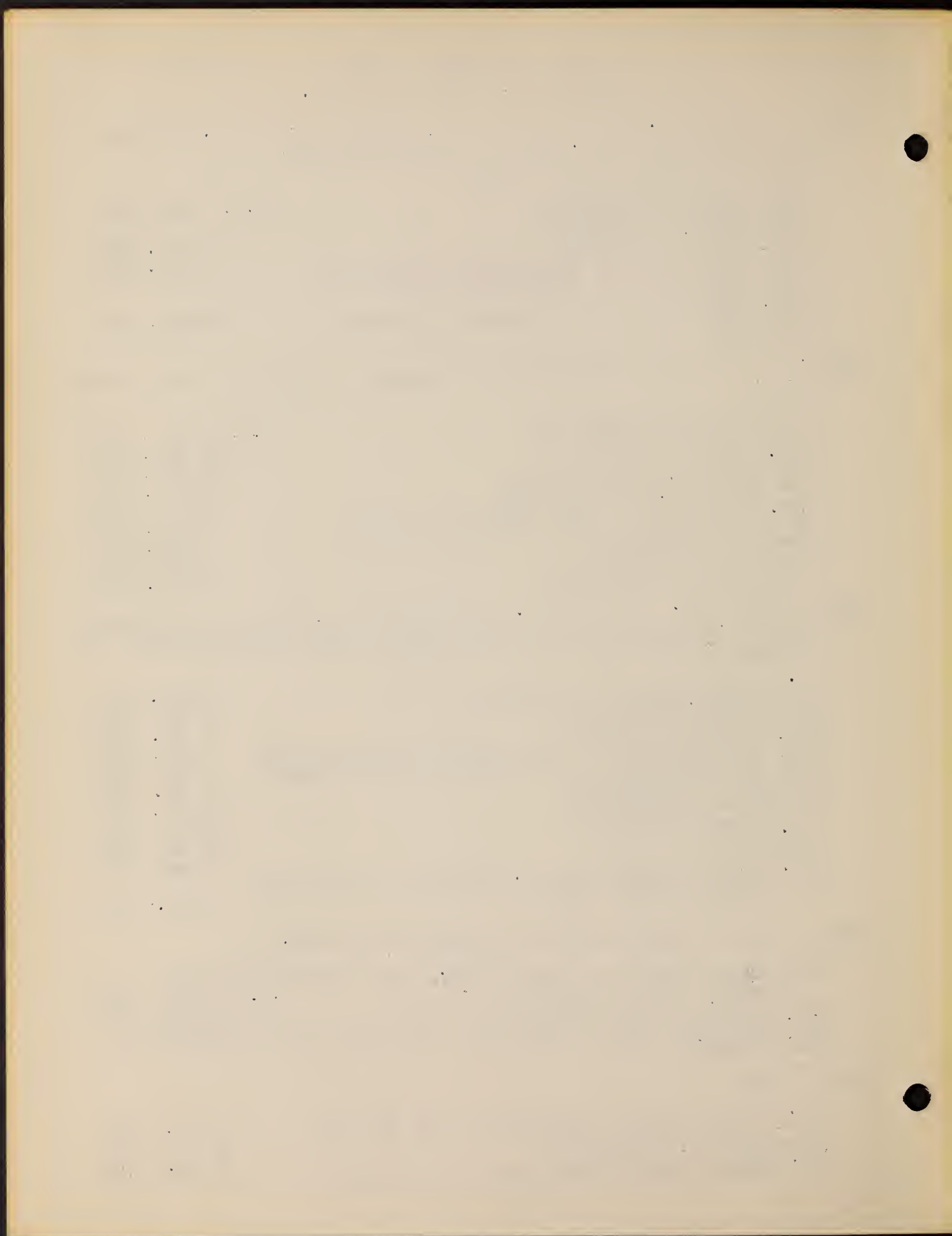
son William James, of Kingston	3 Oct. 1833
son Gilbert, of Kingston	6 Aug. 1829
son Micajah, of Kingston	6 Aug. 1829
dau. Susannah, wife of John Moore, of Loughborough	6 Aug. 1829
dau. Charlotte, wife of Davis McCay, of Kingston	6 Aug. 1829
son Hosea, of Kingston	29 Aug. 1810
son Samuel, of Kingston	26 Aug. 1817
son Jesse, of Kingston	20 May 1817
dau. Martha	13 Jun 1818
son David, of Kingston	12 Sept 1833
dau. Mary, wife of Joseph R. Caverley, of Kingston married 4 June, 1809	7 Aug. 1810

PURDY, Jesse, of Elizabethtown, married Ruth Kennicot.

son William, of Yonge, born 12 Aug. 1769, married Elizabeth Brundage; died at Bath, 22 Jan., 1847	O.C. 18 Mar. 1808
son Thomas, of Elizabethtown	29 Sept 1819
dau. Susannah, wife of Archibald Montgomery, of Elizabethtown.	
dau. Hannah.	

PURDY, Joseph

dau. Betsey, wife of John McEvers, of Hamilton	22 Feb. 1808
son Benjamin, of Hamilton	22 Feb. 1808
son Daniel, of Hamilton	22 Feb. 1808
dau. Nancy, wife of John Vaughn, of Hamilton	22 Feb. 1808



T. E. L. Claims Compiled by H.C. Burleigh, M.D. 22

A New Claim Lodged in England.

374. Evidence on the Claim of Gilbert Purdy, late of New Burgh,
Ulster County, New York. Montreal, 25th Feb., 1788.

David Purdy, son to G. Purdy, deceased, sworn:

G. Purdy was a native of America. In 1755 he lived in Ulster County. He joined the B. Army in 1777 at New York. He entered into the Guides & Pioneers & died on his passage to Philadelphia.

Wits. David came to the B. Army at New York in 1776 and served one year in the Guides and for the remainder of the war he worked for his subsistence.

He came to Canada in 1783. He wintered at Sorel.

He now lives above Cataragui. His father left a wife and 4 sons, 4 daughters, viz., Claimt., 2nd Gilbert in Canada, did not join the Brit. Army; 3rd Mecadia, in the States, but was in Canada last year; 4th Samuel, in the States; 5th Mercy, married to Capt. Everitt at Cataragui; 6th Rhoda Purdy, Cataragui; 7th Mary, in the States; 8th Charlotte, in the States.

Believes that his father made a Will but he has not got it.

300 acres in New Burgh purchased many years since. 160 acres were in cultivation. He had good houses and barns on it. Says it was worth L 4 York per acre in his opinion.

His mother lives on the farm although the Land has been confiscated but not sold. His mother has been in Canada.

Says that his father had 3 yoke of oxen taken from his farm, 5 milch cows, some young cattle. He had 9 horses taken, 40 sheep, 10 lambs and some hogs, a large quantity of grain and hay.

A new sloop just built; she rotted on the stocks, 40 tons burthen.

Claimt. produces order from an American Committee to quit the States and to return to N. York 11th June, 1783.

And several certificates of sale of Personal property of Gilbert Purdy

He allows that his mother is in possession of the Estate, but the Personal Estate is lost.

Produces judgt. passed against Gilbert Purdy late of New Burgh 29th Dec., 1783.

Wits., Gilbert Purdy, sworn:

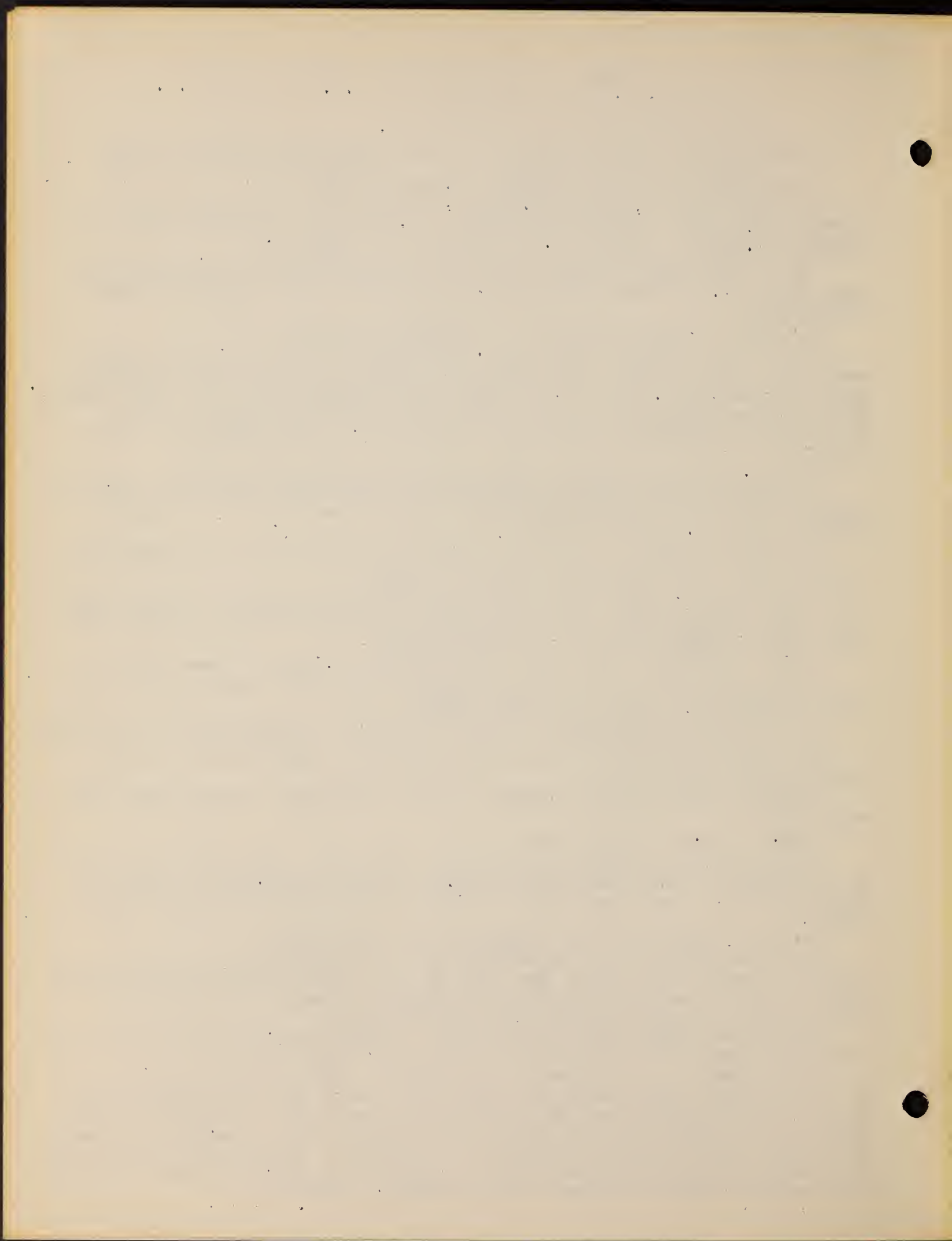
Says he is the 2nd son of G. Purdy, deceased. During the war he was in the States; he was too young to serve. Says that after the peace he came to New York and came round to Canada by sea with his brother Capt. Everitt.

He now resides with his mother in New York State.

Says his mother is in possession of his father's lands, but the lawyer McKisson has informed her that she has not title to sell this land, as it has been confiscated, and they suppose or suspect that he has a title for this land purchased under confiscation.

They left a good part of the stock. He says the rebels only left her a cow and a mare and a sloop on the stocks, 40 tons burthen.

Explanatory: The following documentary evidence gives adequate proof of the fact that David Purdy was the eldest son of Gilbert Purdy of New Burgh and that his brother Gilbert was the second son. Claims were filed against the American Government through England by many Canadian settlers. The story of this family in Canada is elaborated. David becomes the father of a large family and Gilbert likewise. The descendants of these two families comprise the main theme of this pamphlet. (J.W.M.)



Parish Register, St. John's Church, Bath²³

Rev. John Langhorne 1st Pastor

Purdy, David and Abigail. (notes by Dr. Burleigh)

Children:	Micajah, Ernesttown Baptized	Feb. 10, 1794
	Betsey (Elixabeth)	" Feb. 16, 1795
	Mary	" Feb. 20, 1803
	John	" June 12, 1803
	Joseph	" March 15, 1808
	Jacob	" March 19, 1812

We assume that the birthdates were close to the baptismal dates. Notes taken by Mrs. J.W. Masten from data in Dr. Burleigh's office.

- 1. David Purdy's first child was Gilbert, he drew his land in 1810.
- 2. David's second child Ruliff of Ernesttown, drew his land in 1810.
- 3. David's daughter Elizabeth drew her land in 1817.
- 4. David's son Samuel D. of Ernesttown drew his land in 1820.
- 5. David's son Micajah drew his land in 1820.
- 6. David's daughter Mary the wife of John Abbott of Kingston drew her land in 1820.
- 7. John of Sidney, David's son, drew his land in 1836.
- 8. Jacob of Ernesttown, David's son, drew his land in 1836.
- 9. Joseph Purdy, David's son drew his land Feb. 5, 1835.
- 10. Abigail Ostrum, David's wife drew her land in 1810.

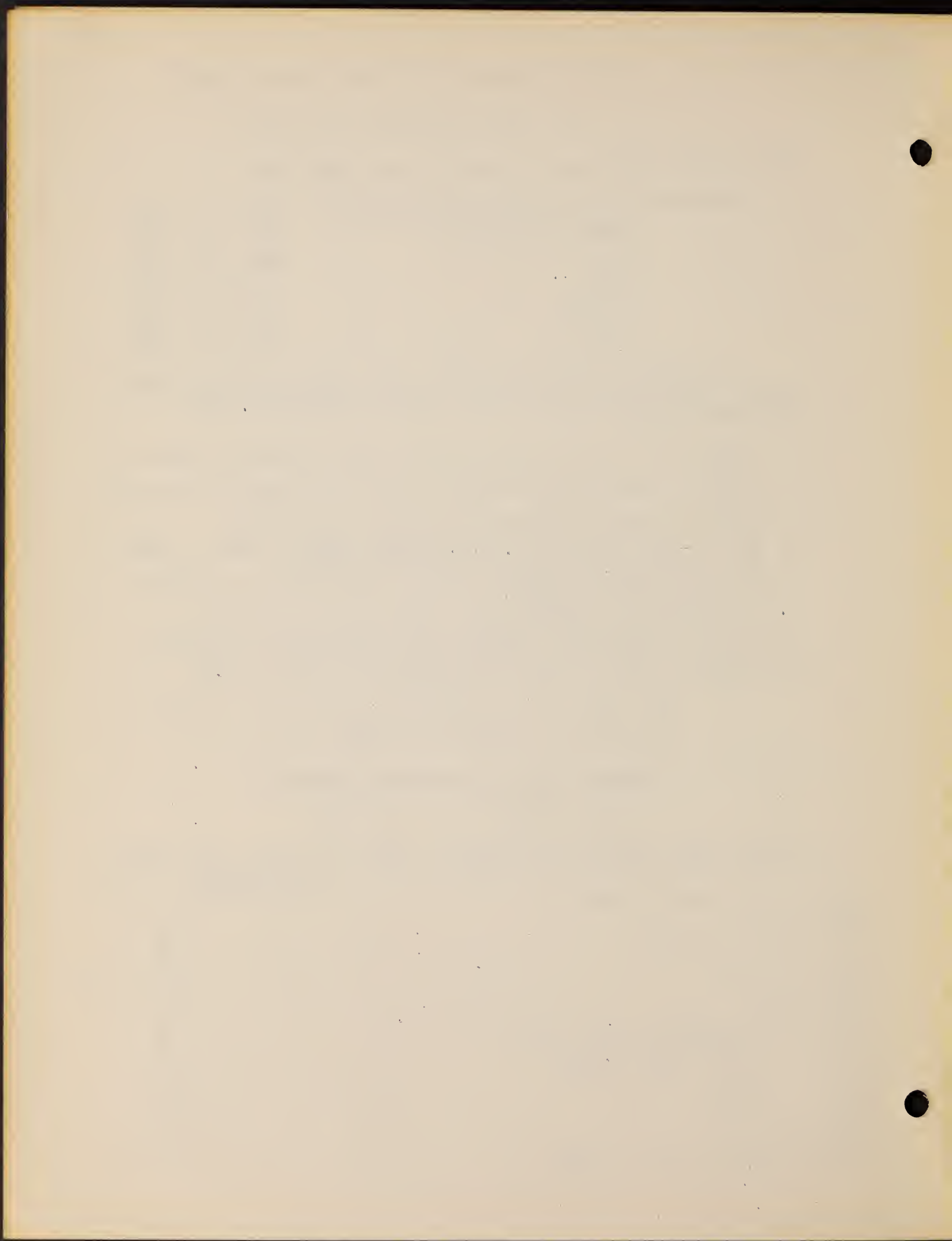
The girls got their land when they were married.
Then men got their land at age 21.

Census of 1851 Ernesttown Township²⁴

(Notes by Dr. H. C. Burleigh)

Joseph Purdy (farmer bp. March 15, 1808 b. Can West West Meth
Joseph Purdy (fmr.) bp. March 15, 1808 b.Can West West Meth. 47 years
next birthday.

Unis M. Purdy b.1812 d.1876	"	"	"	40	"
Sarah Purdy	"	"	"	20	"
David Purdy (labourer)	"	"	"	18	"
Jacob Purdy	"	"	"	16	"
Elisa J. Purdy	"	"	"	13	"
John Purdy	"	"	"	13	"
Samuel Purdy	"	"	"	10	"
Joseph Purdy b.Aug 10, 1844	"	"	"	8	"
Samuel D. Purdy (farmer) b. 1798	"	"	"	53	"
Elis F. Purdy b. 1807 m.1822	"	"	"	44	"
Sarah J. Purdy	"	"	"	22	"
Elisa A. Purdy	"	"	"	20	"
Samuel H. Purdy	"	"	"	18	"
Ralph Purdy	"	"	"	16	"
Charles Purdy B. June 1, 1846	"	"	"	6	"



Land Record, Ernesttown Township

Joseph Purdy	conc. 1	lots pt. 41 & 42	220 acres.
Samuel Purdy	" "	" " 42	240 acres.

Census of 1851 Kingston Township

Jesse Purdy (frmr.) (son Gilbert, U.E.)	b. U.S.	West Meth.	57 yrs.	next birthday.
Sarah Purdy (Laird)	"	"	50	" "
Marshall Purdy	b. Can	West	24	" "
Mary Ann Purdy	"	"	20	" "
Elijah Purdy	"	"	19	" "
Ferdinand Purdy	"	"	17	" "
Robert Purdy	"	"	16	" "
Sidney Purdy	"	"	10	" "
Philip E. Purdy (yeoman)	"	"	31	" "
Charlotte E. Purdy	"	"	34	" "
William W. Purdy	"	"	12	" "
Hester J. H. Purdy	"	"	9	" "
Ryerson Purdy	"	"	6	" "
Aylmer Purdy	"	"	3	" "

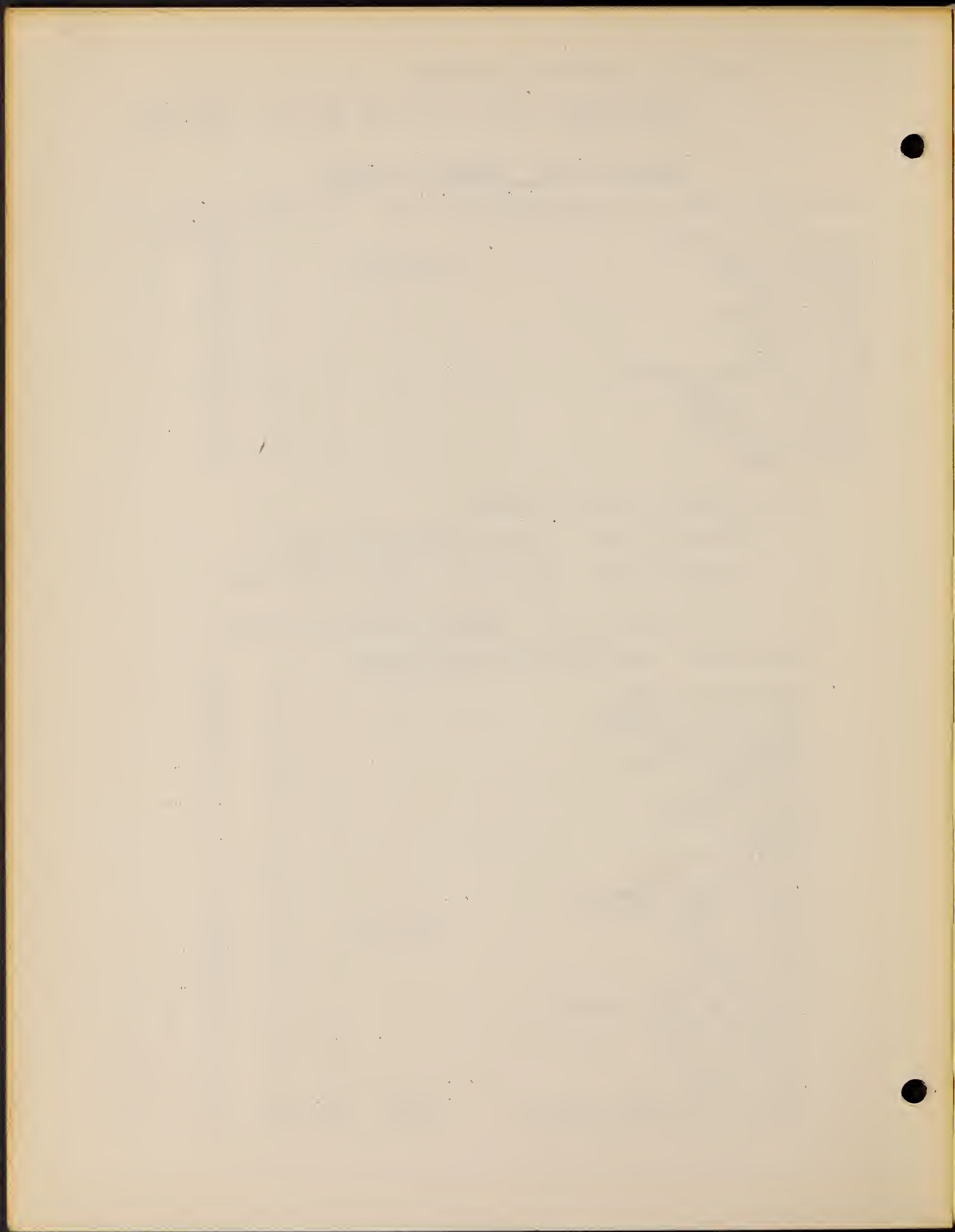
Land Record, Kingston Township

Philip E. Purdy	conc. 2, lot 20,	99 acres
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Valentine Purdy	conc. 3, " 17 & 18,	259 acres
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Census of 1851 Kingston Township continued

David Purdy (son Gilbert, U.E. wheelwright)	"	"	43	"	"
Mary Purdy (Rees)	"	"	35	"	"
P. G. Purdy (male)	"	"	14	"	"
Mary Cornelia Purdy	"	"	12	"	"
Charles Purdy	"	"	10	"	"
Wellington Purdy	"	"	8	"	"
Ann Purdy	"	"	6	"	"
David Purdy	"	"	4	"	"
Amy Ann Purdy	"	"	3	"	"
Infant	"	"	1	"	"
Eneline Purdy	"	"	7	"	"
Joseph W. Purdy	"	"	3	"	"
Mercy Purdy (servant)	"	"	16	"	"
Samuel Purdy (farmer)	U.S.	"	57		
Pamela Purdy	Can West	"	53	"	"
Mary Purdy	"	"	22	"	"
John Purdy	"	"	18	"	"
William Purdy	"	"	10	"	"
Valentine Purdy (frmr.)	"	"	38	"	"
Harriet Purdy	"	"	27	"	"
Albert Purdy	"	"	7	"	"
Catherine Ann	"	"	5	"	"
Mary Purdy	"	"	2	"	"
Ester Jane Purdy	U.S.	"	70	"	"
Edward Woodhouse (servant)	Eng.	Ch. of Eng.	16	"	"



Purdy-Fretz-Rose 25

Information about the Fretz, Rose and John and Jacob Purdy family has been recently furnished me by Mrs. Elva Hobbs of 110 Rainsford Road, Toronto 8, Ontario. Mrs. Elva Hobbs is a daughter of Amelia Purdy who married John Rose of Bath. Amelia Purdy is a daughter of Jacob Purdy and Amelia Fretz.

There were three Fretz sisters, the daughters of Allen Fretz and his wife. One of these daughters, Anna married John Purdy of Sidney. Another, Amelia, married Jacob, a brother of John. These brothers were sons of David Purdy and Abigail Ostrum. The third sister named Aurilla married Joseph Rose. These three families and their descendants are noted elsewhere.

Of special note in these groups is the fact that the Purdy brothers married sisters and later the Rose's married back into the Purdys making pretty close interrelationships in the descendants.

Among the children of the third sister Fretz who married Joseph Rose was Mary Louisa Rose who married Lewis A. Purdy of Brighton. Mary Louisa was from her mother one half a Fretz. Lewis was 1/2 a Fretz and 1/2 a Purdy. The descendants of this marriage would be then one-fourth Purdy, one-fourth Rose and one-half Fretz like their grandmother.

Another interrelationship between the children of Jacob Purdy and Amelia Fretz and those of John Purdy and Anna Fretz, brothers who married sisters, is that the cousins are related like brothers and sisters.

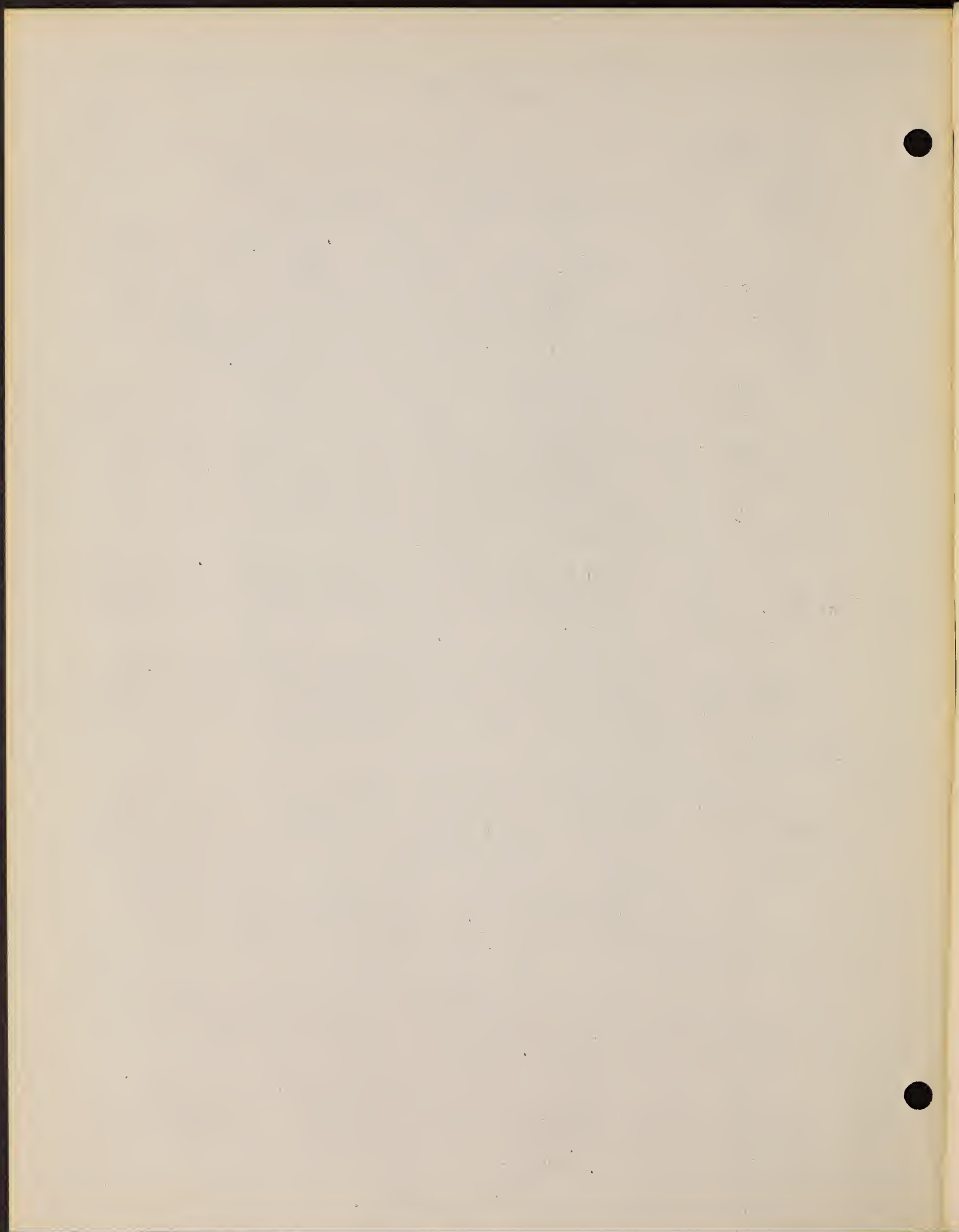
Still another interrelationship occurs when John Rose marries Amelia Purdy. Amelia Purdy is a daughter of Jacob Purdy and Amelia Fretz while John Rose's mother is a sister of Amelia named Aurilla. Here we have children 1/4 Purdy, 1/4 Rose and 1/2 Fretz again as Mrs. Elva H. Hobbs.

Another case is where a daughter of Jacob Purdy and Amelia Fretz named Jane Ann Purdy (Jonnie) marries Ridley Purdy, another son of John Purdy and Anna Fretz. Here we have the marriage of children of a marriage where Purdy brothers marry Fretz sisters. Here a Purdy marries a Purdy with blood lines like a sister marrying a brother.

Assuming that we start with the family of David Purdy and Abigail Ostrum like John and Jacob Purdy in the second paragraph above it explains that Mrs. Elva H. Hobbs is 1/4 Purdy, 1/4 Rose and 1/2 Fretz.

If I being the son of Emma Purdy, a daughter of John Purdy and Anna Fretz and a father named William Masten, am 1/4 Purdy, 1/4 Fretz, 1/2 Masten, then I am an equivalent in blood lines of a first cousin to Mrs. Elva H. Hobbs.

All of Jacob Purdy's children are related to all of John Purdy's children as brothers and sisters. All of the grandchildren are related to each other as first cousins which is 25 per cent.



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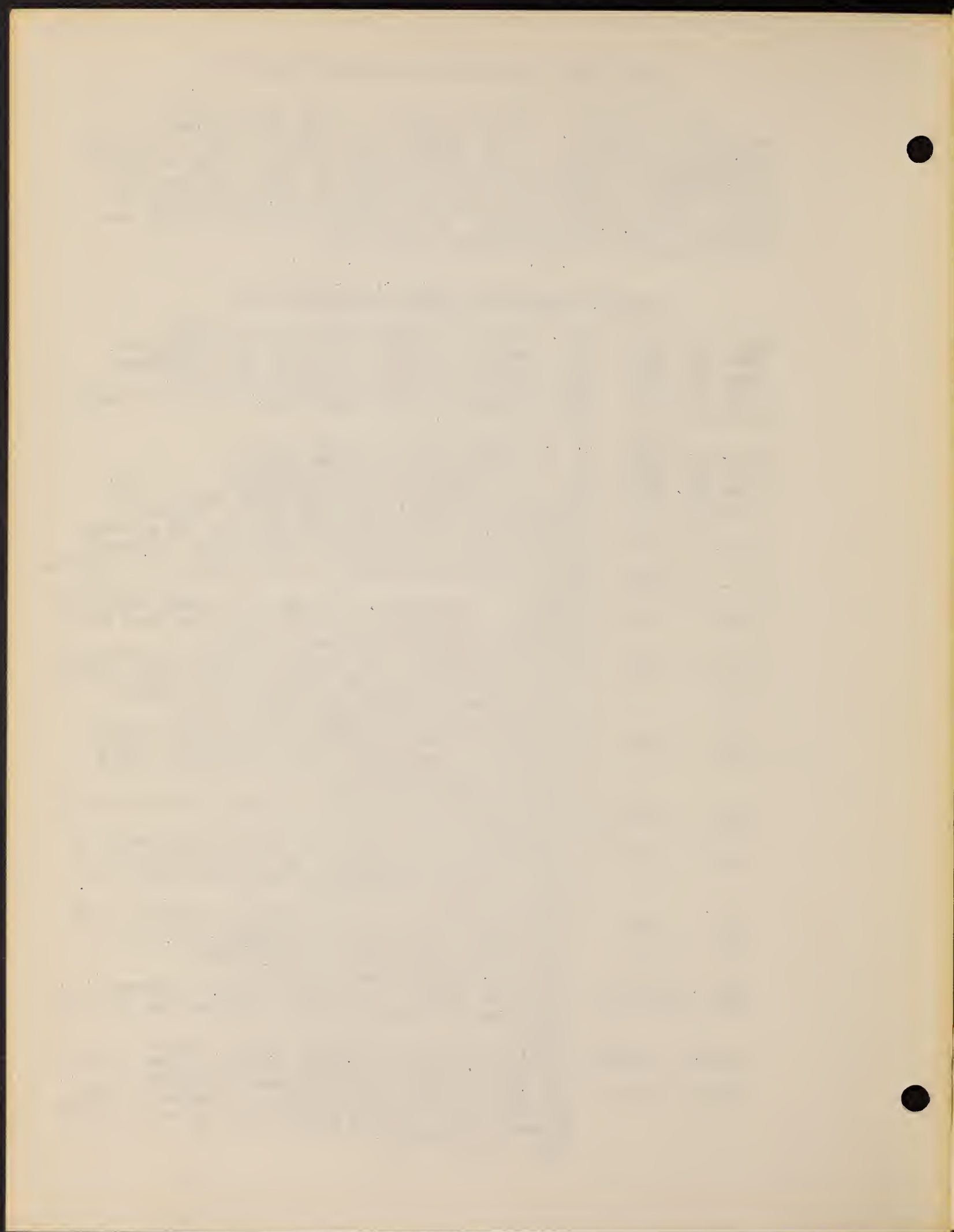
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Dated Notes From The J. C. Clark Diary

The J.C. Clark Diary is on file in the Queens University of Kingston. J. C. Clark was a personal friend or acquaintance of many of the Purdy's mentioned. Most were sons or daughters of David Purdy and Abigail Astrom. Some belonged to the families of David's three brothers. These notes are only a part of those selected for us by Dr. H.C. Burleigh of Bath, the U.E.L. Historian. Those mentioned lived mostly between Kingston and Ernesttown (Bath) JWM

Notes Re.-Samuel D. Purdy - David's Son

- May 14, 1838: Mrs. Samuel D. Purdy confined of a son.
Feb. 23, 1841: Mrs. Samuel D. Purdy confined of a daughter.
June 30, 1842: Mrs. Samuel D. Purdy confined of a daughter.
June 1, 1846: Mrs. Samuel D. Purdy confined of a son.
Jan. 12, 1847: School Trustee S.D. Purdy, Esq., No. 3-J. Purdy No. 1.
Mar. 9, 1848: S. D. Purdy and wife here.
Jan. 12, 1853: S. D. Purdy Esq., elected trustee.
June 14, 1853: Mr. S. D. Purdy Esq., Road Master
June 26, 1854: Rev. John Wesley German and Miss Sarah Jane, daughter of Samuel D. Purdy Esq., married.
Oct. 27, 1854: I wrote and witnessed the execution of a deed of land from S. D. Purdy to W. Lount, Toronto.
Jan. 9, 1856: Annual School meeting. S. D. Purdy Esq., finishes term.
Feb. 18, 1856: Samuel D. Purdy Esq., started for Sidney with his brother, John Purdy and wife, who has been down at his brothers more than 2 weeks.
May 20, 1856: Ruliff Purdy Esq., of Sidney a native of Ernesttown, being the son of the late Mr. David Purdy, and brother of Samuel D. Purdy Esq., and Mr. Joseph Purdy, etc., died this morning.
July 11, 1857: Mr. Garbutt had a saddle sold to pay a school tax for the pretended Union Section by David Purdy, by order of Samuel D. Purdy Esq., and Joseph Purdy, Trustees.
Sept. 8, 1857: Mrs. Joseph Purdy and Mrs. Samuel D. Purdy here for a visit.
Dec. 31, 1857: Mr. Henry Day of the Township of Kingston, and Miss Eliza Ann, daughter of Samuel D. Purdy Esq., of Ernesttown, married by the Rev. John Wesley German.
Apr. 8, 1858: The wife of the Rev. John Wesley German, Sarah Jane Purdy confined of a daughter at Wilton (Sarah Jane is Samuel D's daughter).
Aug. 25, 1859: Mrs. S. D. Purdy here in P.M.
Aug. 18, 1860: Samuel D. Purdy Esq., had a valuable horse destroyed last night by the cars on the railroad track.
March 1, 1863: Missionary meeting at our school house at evening. Samuel D. Purdy, Esq., in the chair.
Oct 24, 1861: Mr. Ralph Purdy, son of Samuel D. Purdy Esq., and Miss Sylvia Maria Haines, daughter of Mr. Thomas Hains, all of Ernesttown, married by the Rev. George Young.



- Oct. 29, 1862: Mr. Samuel H. Purdy, son of Samuel D. Purdy Esq., of Ernesttown and Miss Rhoda Ann, daughter of Calvin H. Day Esq., of the township of Kingston, married by the Rev. John Wesley German.
- Jan 8, 1863: Mr. John Purdy, of Murray, and brother of Samuel D. Purdy, Esq., of Ernesttown, committed suicide by hanging himself.
- July 29, 1863: Mr. Gilbert Purdy, brother of S.D. Purdy Esq., here in 9 P.M.

The above notes help give authenticity to the relationships in the David Purdy family. These notes concerning John Purdy's brother Samuel D. Purdy also connect Joseph, Ruliff and Gilbert to the family. A little later we find Jacob, Macajah, and the sisters Mary and Elizabeth mentioned. We must remember that this family of David and Abigail is one of the very first of the U.E.L.'s born in Canada.

Speaking of Samuel D. Purdy we note that he was a School Trustee, a Road Master and a farmer. Apparently J. C. Clark the writer of the Diary was personally acquainted with the Purdy family. Apparently Samuel D. Purdy was interested in church work, because he was the chairman of a missionary meeting at the school house.

The diary states that a son of Samuel D. Purdy named Ralph Purdy, married Sylvia Marie Haines; another son named Samuel H. Purdy married Rhoda Ann, daughter of Calvin H. Day. And Joseph Purdy Jr., married Miss German. There were two daughters, Eliza Ann and Sarah Jane. Eliza Ann married Henry Day who later became a medical doctor, and Sarah Jane married Rev. John Wesley German. My mother Emma Purdy, a daughter of John Purdy and Anna Fretz and a member of the John Purdy family of this study mentions her cousins, Doctor Day and wife in her letters. Doctor Day was the family physician of many of the Purdys around Brighton and Trenton. Dr. Day was present at the death of grandmother according to Will Purdy of Toronto. Will also stated that a sister of Dr. Day's wife, Eliza Ann, lived with the Days for many years. This may have been Sarah Jane who may have outlived her husband Rev. John Wesley German. We have no data to prove this at present. Will Purdy gave us the idea that the sister was married at one time to a railroad or a traveling man who was away from home a great deal. So she may have been another sister or relative or have been married twice.

There are many relationships between the Purdys and the Days, explained elsewhere under "Days". We have made no effort, as yet, to follow up on these relationships except as they affect our more immediate family. Most of these relationships occur between the early "Days" and the descendants of Gilbert Purdy, the younger brother of our David Purdy, and the uncle of John Purdy of Sidney.

J.C. Clark Diary Notes Re. Joseph Purdy
(Another brother of John Purdy)

- July 13, 1839: Mrs. Joseph Purdy confined of a daughter.
- Aug. 10, 1844: Mrs. Joseph Purdy confined of a son.
- Oct. 19, 1844: Mr. J. Purdy lost a skiff in a storm.

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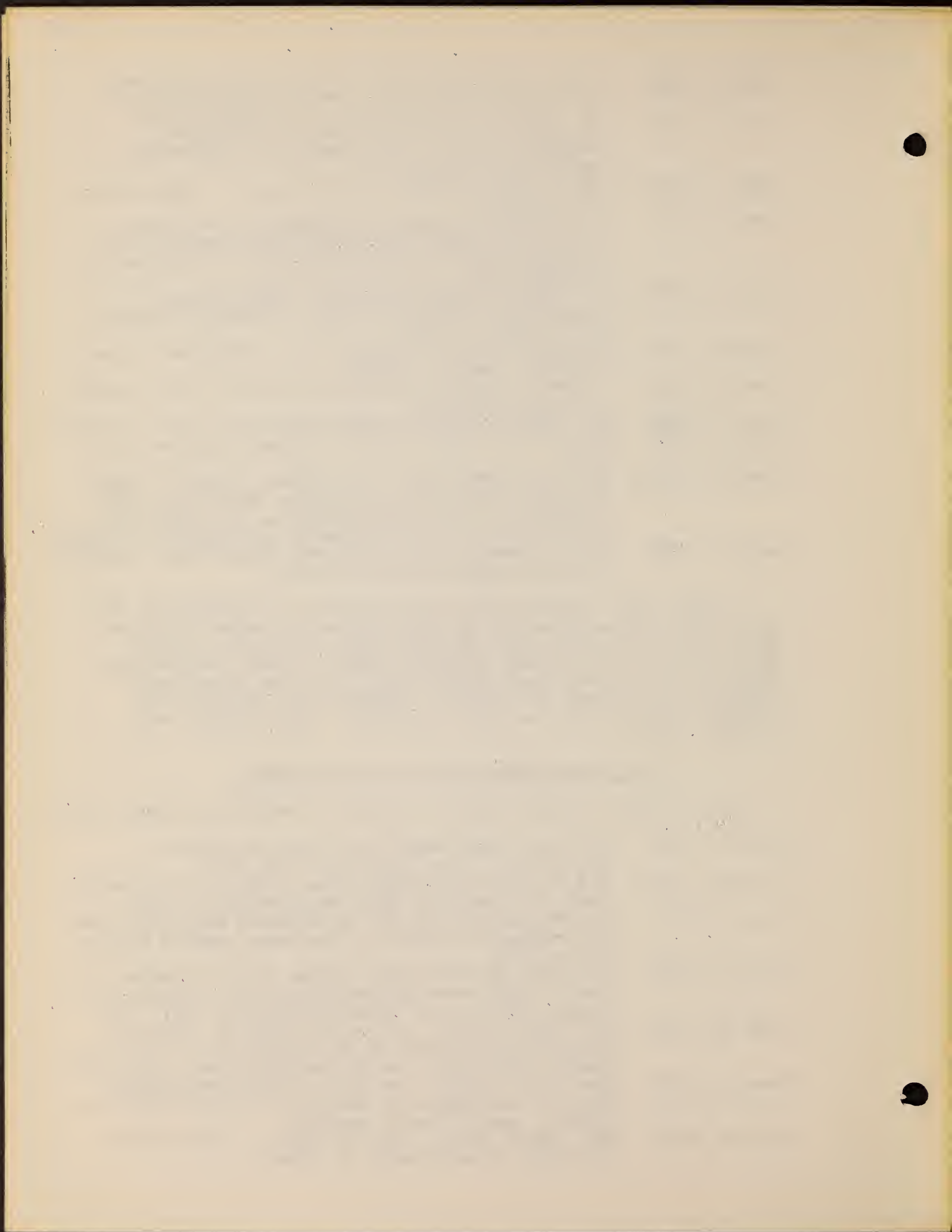
- Aug. 3, 1852: Mrs. Joseph Purdy Jr. confined of a daughter
- Jan 29, 1853: The stone school house near Mr. Purdy's sold by auction. Forbidden by Mr. Joseph Purdy.
- Mar. 6, 1853: Mr. Hiram McGiven and Miss Sarah Lucinda, daughter of Mr. Joseph Purdy, of Ernesttown married at evening.
- Sept. 8, 1857: Mrs. Joseph Purdy and Mrs. Samuel D. Purdy here for a visit.
- Oct. 4, 1858: Mr. David J. Rankin of Collins Bay and Miss Eliza Jane Purdy, supposed to be married today instead of 4th of April (probably a daughter of Joseph Purdy)
- Oct. 28, 1858: Mr. David Purdy, son of Mr. Joseph Purdy of Ernesttown, and Miss Rachel Ann Switzer married by the Rev. J. Law.
- Jan. 18, 1859: Mrs. David Rankin confined of a daughter at her fathers. (Mr. J. Purdy)
- Jan 29, 1859: I wrote a deed and memorial for Mr. Joseph Purdy to his son David.
- Feb. 1, 1859: Mr. David Purdy and wife here in p.m. for a visit.
- Aug. 8, 1859: Mrs. David Purdy (Rachel Switzer) confined of a son.
- June 18, 1861: Mr. Jacob Purdy Jr., son of Mr. Joseph D. Purdy of Ernesttown, Front, and Miss Nancy McDonald daughter of James McDonald Esq., of Fredericksburg formerly of the Township of Kingston, married.
- Dec. 24, 1861 Mrs. Joseph D. Purdy and Mrs. David Purdy (Rachel Switzer) were here for a visit.

These notes indicate that the children of Joseph Purdy are sons, David who married Ann Switzer and second Jacob Purdy Jr., who married Nancy McDonald and third Eliza Jane who married David J. Rankin and fourth Daughter Sarah Lucinda, who married Hiram McGiven. Indicated in the diary is a memo reporting a certain Joseph Purdy who went to Portland and lost his twin children on March 24, and July 13, 1862. This probably was Joseph's son.

J. C. Clark Diary Notes Re. Older Purdys

David and his brothers Gilbert, Samuel, Micajah and their wives.

- May 16, 1839: Old Mrs. David Purdy died, aged 83 years, 7 months and 6 days (born Oct. 10, 1755)
- Jan. 26, 1844: Old Mr. Micajah Purdy of the township of Kingston died this morning, aged 78 years (born 1765).
- Jan. 5, 1851: Old Mr. Gilbert Purdy, Township of Kingston, died at evening of cancer in the face, aged 88 years. (born 1763)
- Jan. 4, 1852: Old Mrs. Abigail Purdy, widow of the late Mr. David Purdy, died suddenly at noon, aged 90 years, 2 mos., and 19 days (born Oct. 16, 1761)
- June 30, 1852: Mr. Samuel Purdy, son of the late Mr. Gilbert Purdy cut his throat with a razor, but is not dead. (apparently one of the 4 brothers from N.Y.)
- Nov. 1, 1858: The widow of the late Capt. Elijah Beech died. She was a daughter of the late Micajah Purdy Sr. (Rhoda, aged 65 years nearly)
- May 12, 1859: Mr. Samuel Purdy, near Waterloo, a son of the late Mr. Gilbert Purdy Sr. died.



May 3, 1861: Mrs. Hchotabel Holmes, widow of the late Micajah Purdy Sr., died at Waterloo, Township of Kingston; she was his fifth wife.

J. C. Clark Diary Notes Re. Other Members

David and Abigail family except Samuel D. Purdy and Joseph Purdy.

July 29, 1838: Mr. Micajah Purdy's daughter killed by a kick of a horse.
 Mar. 26, 1840: Jacob Purdy and Miss Fretz married.
 Dec. 26, 1855: Mr. Jacob Purdy, of Clark, formerly of Ernesttown, a widower with seven children and Miss Hannah Fraser, daughter of Mr. Daniel Fraser of York Road, married.
 Feb. 18, 1856: Samuel D. Purdy Esq., started for Sidney with his brother, John Purdy and wife, who have been down at his brother's more than six weeks.
 May 20, 1856: Ruliff Purdy Esq., of Sidney, a native of Ernesttown being the son of the late Mr. David Purdy, and brother of Samuel D. Purdy Esq., and Mr. Joseph Purdy etc. died this morning.
 Dec. 31, 1857: Mr. Henry Day of the Township of Kingston and Miss Eliza Ann, daughter of Samuel D. Purdy, Esq., of Ernesttown, married by the Rev. John Wesley German.
 Dec. 28, 1859: ²⁷ Mr. James Freeman, and Miss W. Purdy, daughter of John Purdy, Esq., both of Brighton married by the Rev. W. S. Scott, Wesleyan Methodist.

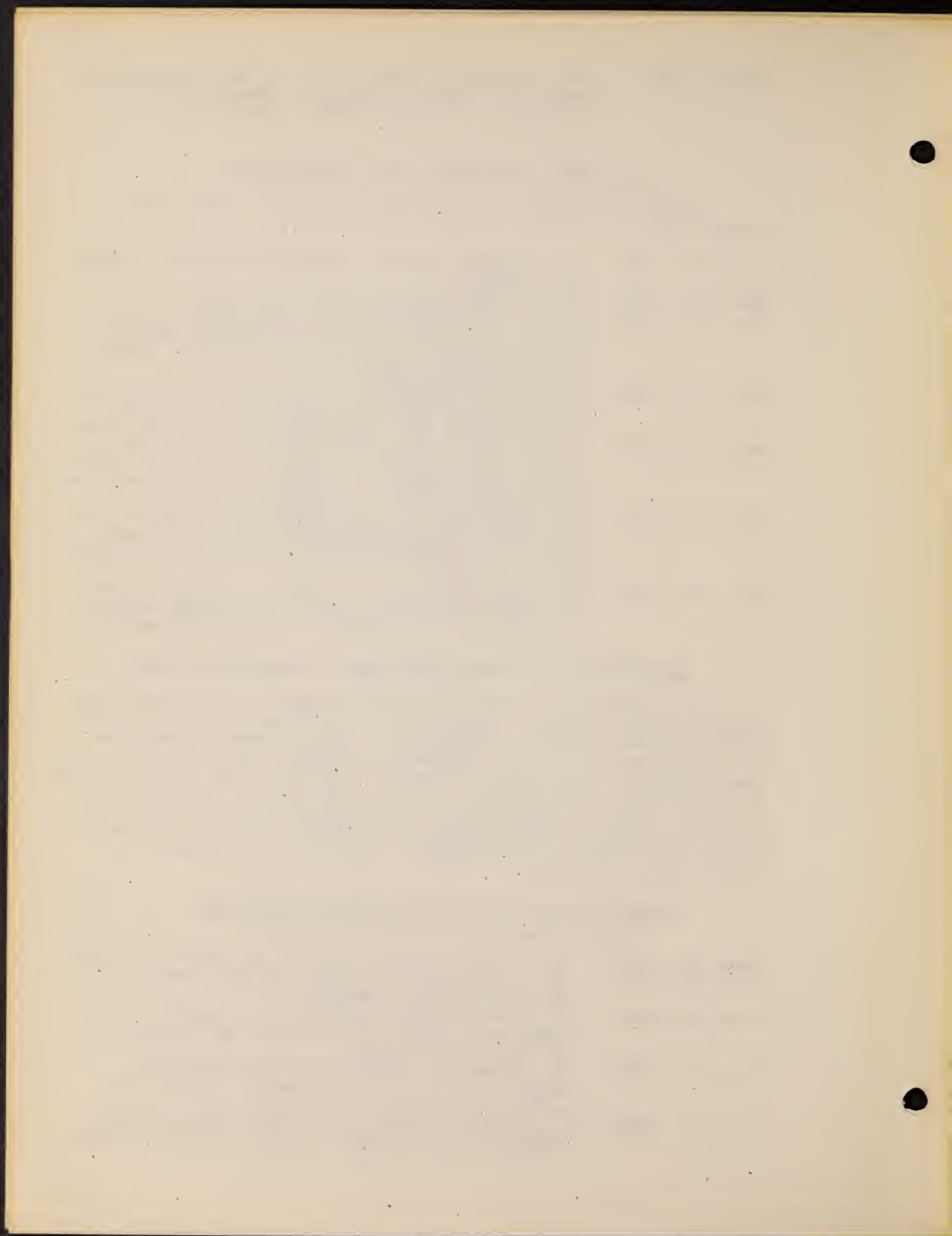
First Cousins Of Our John Purdy - Anna Fretz Family

John Purdy was one of the younger sons, of the David Purdy Abigail Ostrom family. There were 9 children. So there were many cousins. The J. C. Clark diary gives enough information to locate most of there brothers and sisters but is quite inconclusive concerning the families of all except Samuel D. and Joseph Purdy. The families of Jacob and John we have quite a definite personal tracing through living members. We hear of Gilbert personally through the bulletin written by H. Pierson Gundy, but little of his family. Ruliph goes to Sidney, Micajah goes elsewhere.

Items in the J. C. Clark Diary Re. Marriages

(These items not clear as to family)

June 11, 1840: James Purdy and Miss Sarah Ann Mosure married.
 Mar. 26, 1850: Mr. Hazzard Wilcox Purdy and Miss Caroline Elizabeth Bristol married.
 Apr. 28, 1858: Mr. James Purdy and Miss Lenora Ashley, daughter of John Ashley Esq., of the Township of Kingston married.
 Dec. 21, 1859: Mr. Gilbert J. Purdy and Miss Elizabeth Hamilton, both of the Township of Kingston, married by the Rev. W. Burns.
 Apr. 18, 1860: Mr. Sheldon Hawley, son of Mr. James Hawley, and Miss Hester Purdy, daughter of Mr. Gilbert



Purdy, of the Township of Kingston, Bath Road, married by
the Rev. Mr. Sanderson, Episcopal Methodist.

Sept 17, 1862: Mr. Thomas Purdy, of the Township of
Kingston, and Miss Daly, daughter of the
late Mr. David Daley married.

Nov 17, 1863: Ralph W. Purdy Esq., and Miss Mary Greenleaf
both of the Township of Brighton, married by
the Rev. William Coleman.



Gilbert Purdy - Pioneer - Jack of All Trades ²⁸⁹
 by H. Pearson Gundy
 Chief Librarian, Queen's University Library

The following abstract is taken from a bulletin sent to me personally by Mr. H. Pearson Gundy, the Chief Librarian of the Queen's University Library of Kingston, Ontario. Please read especially note No. 7 regarding the old book "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte". This helps to clarify the genealogy of the Purdy family. John Purdy, the father of the Purdy-Fretz family of our own group is the son of David Purdy. The Gilbert of the following abstract is one of John's brothers. The Gilbert of the book "Pioneer Life" is David's brother and John's uncle. There are decendants of David's brother Gilbert around Kingston today.

Our knowledge of the family of my great grandparents, David Purdy and Abigail Ostrom ^{include} including the Gilbert of this bulletin and my grandfather John, ~~including~~ also Ruliph, Elizabeth, Samuel D., Micajah, Mary, Jacob and Joseph, nine children. Most were born around the turn of the century, 1800, near Collins Bay or Ernestown (Bath). They settled, and raised families along the lake as far as Castleton.

David Purdy's three other brothers settled mostly around Kingston or as above. Their names were Gilbert, Micajah, and Samuel.

Our own group, the family of John Purdy and Anna Fretz Purdy, settled around Sidney. This study concerns them especially. There were 11 children. We have located eight families and their decendants. Three either died young or have been lost. These were Elizabeth, Mary and Phillip. The eight with families were Naturia, Lewis, Sam, David, Charles, Ridley, Emma and Ralph. All are dealt with in detail elsewhere.

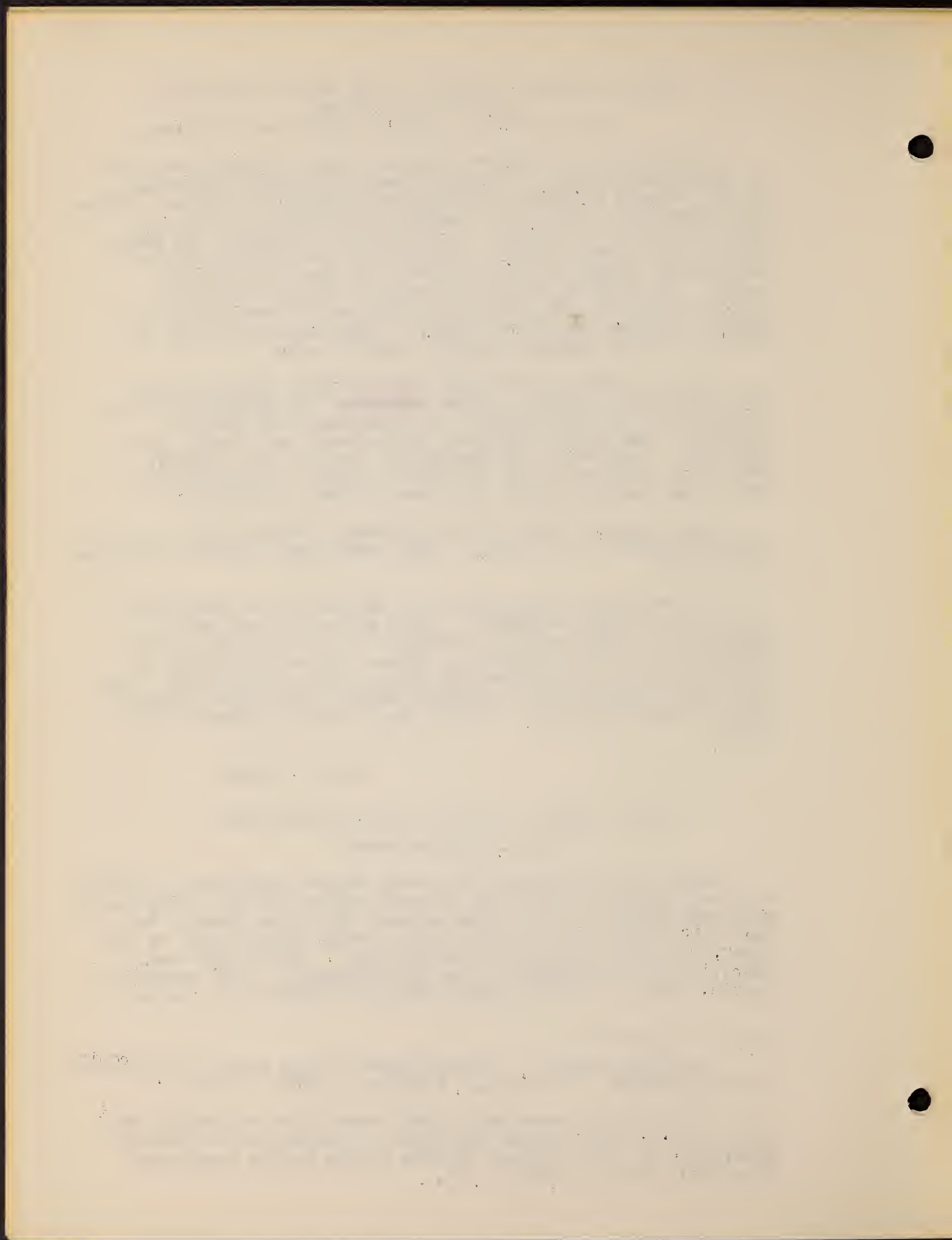
John W. Masten

GILBERT PURDY -- PIONEER JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES
 By H. Pearson Gundy

Among the first group of United Empire Loyalists to arrive in Upper Canada in 1784 were several members of the Purdy family, sons and daughters of a Gilbert Purdy of Ulster County, New York, who joined the British forces under General Howe at New York in 1777 and fell near Philadelphia.¹ His eldest son, David, who, as Sergeant in the 19th Regiment,² also served in the war, was one of the first settlers in Ernestown, where

¹Loyalist claims. "Second Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario." (Toronto, 1905), 430-431.

²"U.E. List, preserved in the Crown Lands Department at Toronto," published as an Appendix to "The Centennial of the Settlement of Upper Canada" by the United Empire Loyalists, 1784-1884 (Toronto, 1885), 239.



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he drew Lot 42, 1st concession,³ on the west of Collins Bay, the boundary between Ernestown and Kingston townships. David Purdy married Abigail Ostrum of Sidney township and brought up a large family of which Gilbert, the subject of this article, was the eldest.⁴

According to John Collins Clark, friend and neighbour of the Purdy family, Gilbert married Asenath Goldsmith of Hallowell (Picton) "who left him".⁵ The marriage is recorded in the Register of Stephen Conger, J.P., "Gilbert Purdy and Asenath Goldsmith of Hallowell, May 1, 1816."⁶

Few⁷ other facts about Purdy can be gleaned from printed sources. A good deal can be deduced, however, from his account book, kept intermittently from 1808 to 1837, and now in the Douglas Library, Queen's University. The book is a small octavo (6" x 7 1/4") of 178 pages of laid paper without watermark, now foxed and water-stained, the first leaf missing. Order and consistency were the least of Purdy's concern in keeping his accounts. He started making entries at the beginning or end of the book indifferently from 1808 to 1829; thereafter he discontinued using the back pages of the book. The last entry is for October 26, 1837, on page 72. Pages 73 to 149 are blank, except for pages 100 and 124 which are inscribed with religious sentiments. There are no business entries for 1812-16, 1825, 1828, 1830-33, 1835-36. The accounts themselves are interspersed with occasional memoranda and pious exhortations. Thus, following an entry dated September 17, 1817, "to footing a pare of boots, 15/" for his brother Samuel, he writes: "Prepare to meete your god now is the time, G. Purdy." In another place he expostulates: "My Dear Friends. Improve time well every moment now is the time Due not For git this, G. Purdy." Again he writes "Command you may your mind from all evil." The longest of these "private ejaculations" is in the form of a prayer--*286*

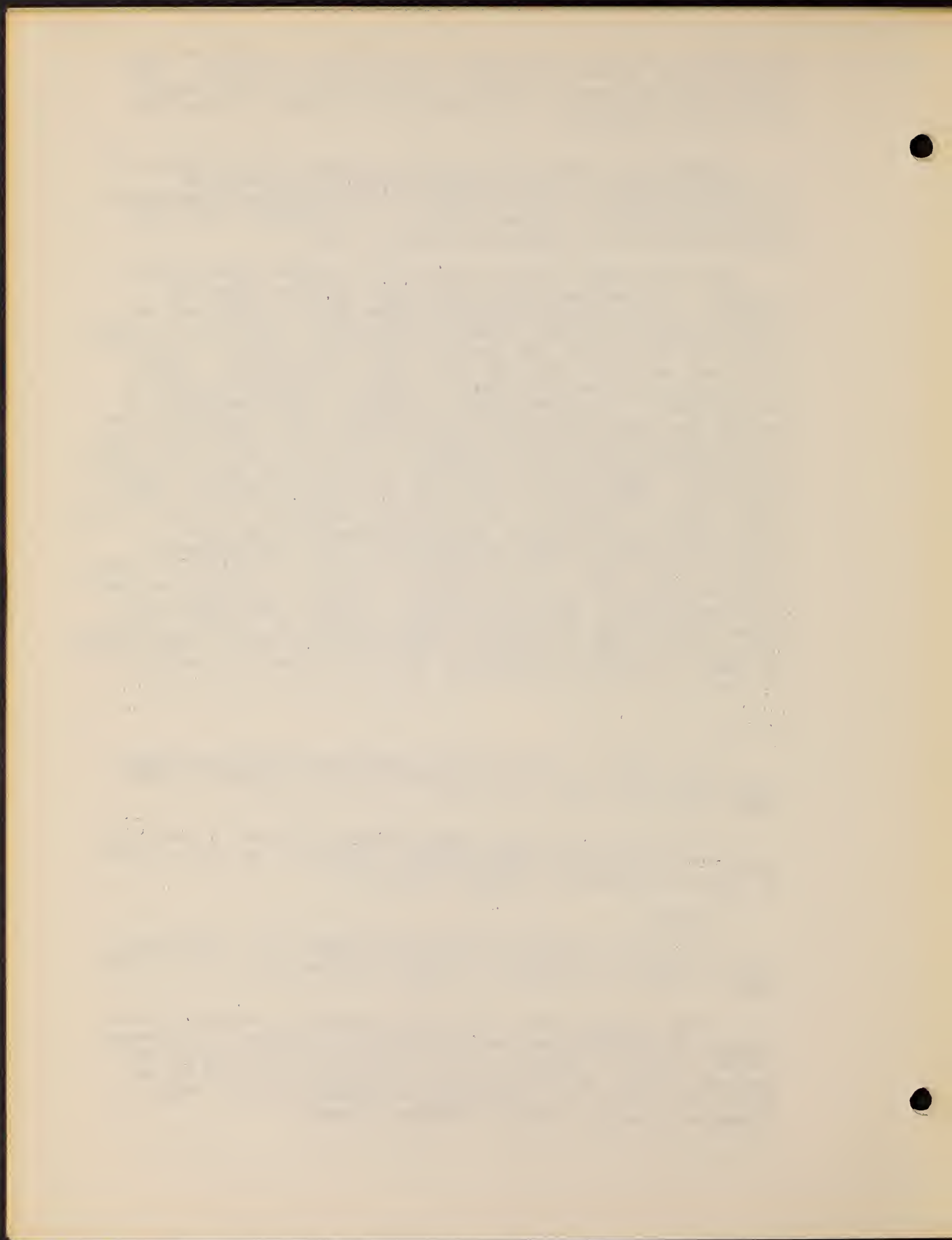
³ Wm. Caniff. History of the Settlement of Upper Canada (Ontario) with special reference to the Bay Quinte (Toronto, 1885), 239.

⁴ John Collins Clark. "Reminiscences of some of the first settlers in Ernestown" March 1844. Typescript of the original in Queen's University Library, Page 2.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "Marriage Register of Stephen Conger, J.P., Hallowell." Ontario Historical Society. Papers and Records, Vol. I, 1899, 110.

⁷ See Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte, including genealogies of old families and biographical sketches of representative citizens (Toronto, n.d.). This work, frequently inaccurate, fails to include Gilbert Among the sons of David Purdy, but lists the descendants of another Gilbert Purdy of Kingston township, younger brother of David.



perhaps a New Year's resolution:

O may i through gods grays Asisting me Make true
 Religion the business of my Life to Due what i feel
 moste Required of the lord god The labouring for the
 worth of souls to due them good Both in Sou(1)s and
 body To vissit the sick the poor and the needy to
 prepair medison and giv it tu them To visit poor children
 and them that are quite young and Sick and Needy to a
 tend to my Farm and work and to keepe my Bisness regular
 and in order to keepe my accounts Strate and in or Der
 O God assist me in this under takeing.

Gilbert Purdy

One wonders whether the chaotic disorder of the account book may have prompted this prayer, for nothing short of divine Providence could have disentangled Purdy's records!

Folded into the book are several loose leaves, including a medical prescription "To stop a hamorrhage", half a dozen separate statements of account, more religious aphorisms, and surprisingly, two large folded sheets on which Purdy assayed his skill (with somewhat disastrous results) in religious versifying. His prosody is on a par with his spelling.

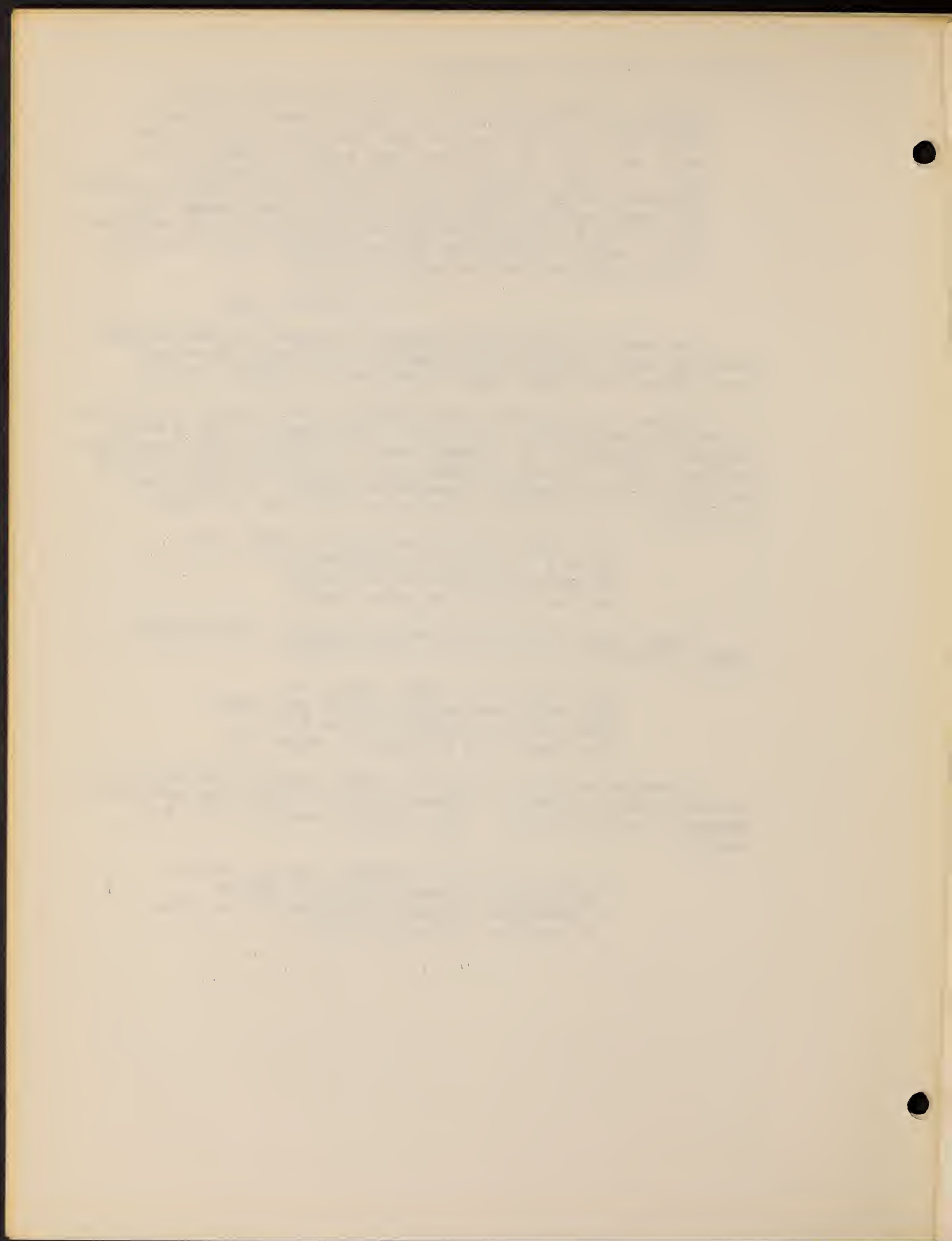
I'll right sum verses and hope they may
 Pruve a blesing in sum futer day
 To meditate thare on and think
 How neer we run on ruens brink

This first effort runs to nine stanzas, the general theme of which is summed up in the seventh:

All things are reddy come a way
 This erth has nothing worth your stay
 Why woud you longer stay be low
 When death are cauling and maney goe

A second variation on this theme comprises seven stanzas, in which rhyme, when it occurs, seems to have been more accidental than intentional. The opening quatrain is a fair sample:

I am like a poor wonderer her all alone
 Serrounded by woods land and shades
 A stranger unpitied and fare from my home
 Oh how can i here be content



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425 W. San Jose Ave.
Fresno, California
April 15, 1962

The Purdy Family of John Purdy and Anna Fretz

In a short time certain preliminary papers concerning the study of this family, its ancestry and descendants will be sent to such as express a desire to receive them. The completed study will not be finished for perhaps another year. A great deal of effort has been made so as to be as accurate as possible. Mistakes in such a study are bound to occur. Corrections will be made if we are advised, in the final copy.

The writer is a son of Emma Purdy, one of the members of this family. Only six first cousins are still alive to our knowledge. These are two daughters of Ralph Purdy, Effie and Nellie; one son of Ridley Purdy, Will of Toronto, my brother Charles, myself, and Maud Thomas, daughter of Charles Purdy of Portland. Maud had a brother Lewis and a sister Mae.

My mother Emma was the youngest child which accounts for the fact that we two, both over 75 years, are the youngest cousins.

Of the eight children and their families which we have succeeded in tracing, four and a half families have resided in the U.S. for many years and comprise the majority of the families.

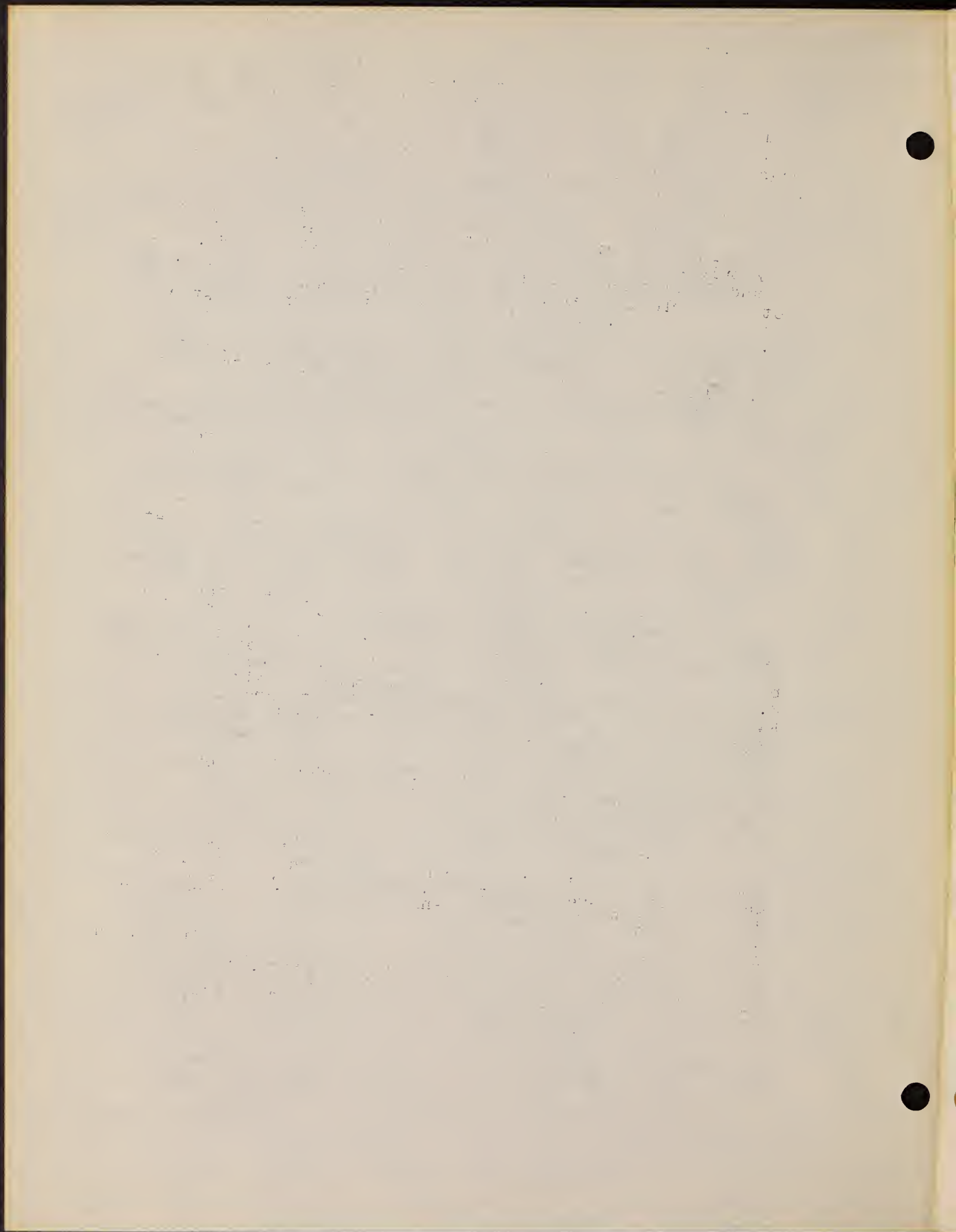
To compare and contrast families in regard to education, wealth or influence is, of course, not our objective. Rather the general high average of all combined is the purpose.

Investigations have led back, without any breaks, to the four Purdy brothers born in New York and the descendants of Gilbert Purdy, Sr. of New York. Books, pamphlets and diaries as well as information compiled by Dr. H. C. Burleigh of Bath, Historian of the United Empire Loyalists of Bath, has been extensively used. Information has been received from H. Pearson Gundy, Chief Librarian of Queen's University of Kingston; also a bulletin entitled "Gilbert Purdy" written by Mr. Gundy. This Gilbert is a brother of John Purdy, the father of our family group.

The granddaughter of Jacob Purdy, Mrs. Elva Hobbs of Toronto, has been very helpful in many ways. Jacob is another brother of our John Purdy.

Will M. Purdy, now 88 and his wife Audrey presented us with a wealth of material in general about the Purdys of our family. Will is a first cousin and his own family of five are now living near Toronto. Will is the son of Ridley, another member of the John and Anna family. Will's daughter, Winifred Ellis was very helpful.

Sam Purdy of Castleton had three sons, Lou, Walter, and Will. Mrs. Maud (Will) Purdy is still living and has helped with her family. Eva Mae Purdy is Walter's wife and has helped with her family. Maud and Eva Mae are surviving wives of first cousins.



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Mrs. Maud Purdy is the wife of my first cousin Will Purdy. Will has been dead many years. Cousin Maud has been very helpful. We visited her near Castleton. We met daughters Marjorie, Dudley, and Bernice Purdy. *error*

The Lou Purdy family of Kingston, Belleville and Trenton are another large group. Through Claude Purdy, a son of Lou, we were able to meet them. Claude has been very helpful and generous in getting us started. He and Douglas Purdy, Harold's son of Picton, helped us locate Dr. H. C. Burleigh, the United Empire Loyalists' historian.

Miss Ione Oakes helped us get in communication with both her family and the family of her mother's brother, Will Vrooman. Maturia Vrooman was the eldest child of our family of John and Anna Purdy. Maturia's children, Will, and Minnie, who married Ed Oakes, both had families. Will among other children had a daughter, Maud Vrooman, who is living and has been a big help. Ione and Maud are second cousins of mine. Their grandmother, Maturia, is my aunt.

Maud Vrooman helped me to locate two sisters, Nellie and Effie, the daughters of Ralph Purdy of Superior, Wisconsin. They are the first cousins, previously mentioned. Ralph's family was brought up in Wisconsin. These sisters have been very helpful. Effie was never married. She lives in Santa Barbara. She is helping me locate Charlie Purdy's family of Portland, Oregon. Charlie is another of our John and Anna Purdy family. We have no recent information about them as yet. *error*

We have been able to contact the family of David Purdy of Mason City, Iowa, through relatives in Mason City. One son only, George, survived and raised a family. This is a prominent family which is now scattered from Texas to Minnesota. Considerable information will be available.

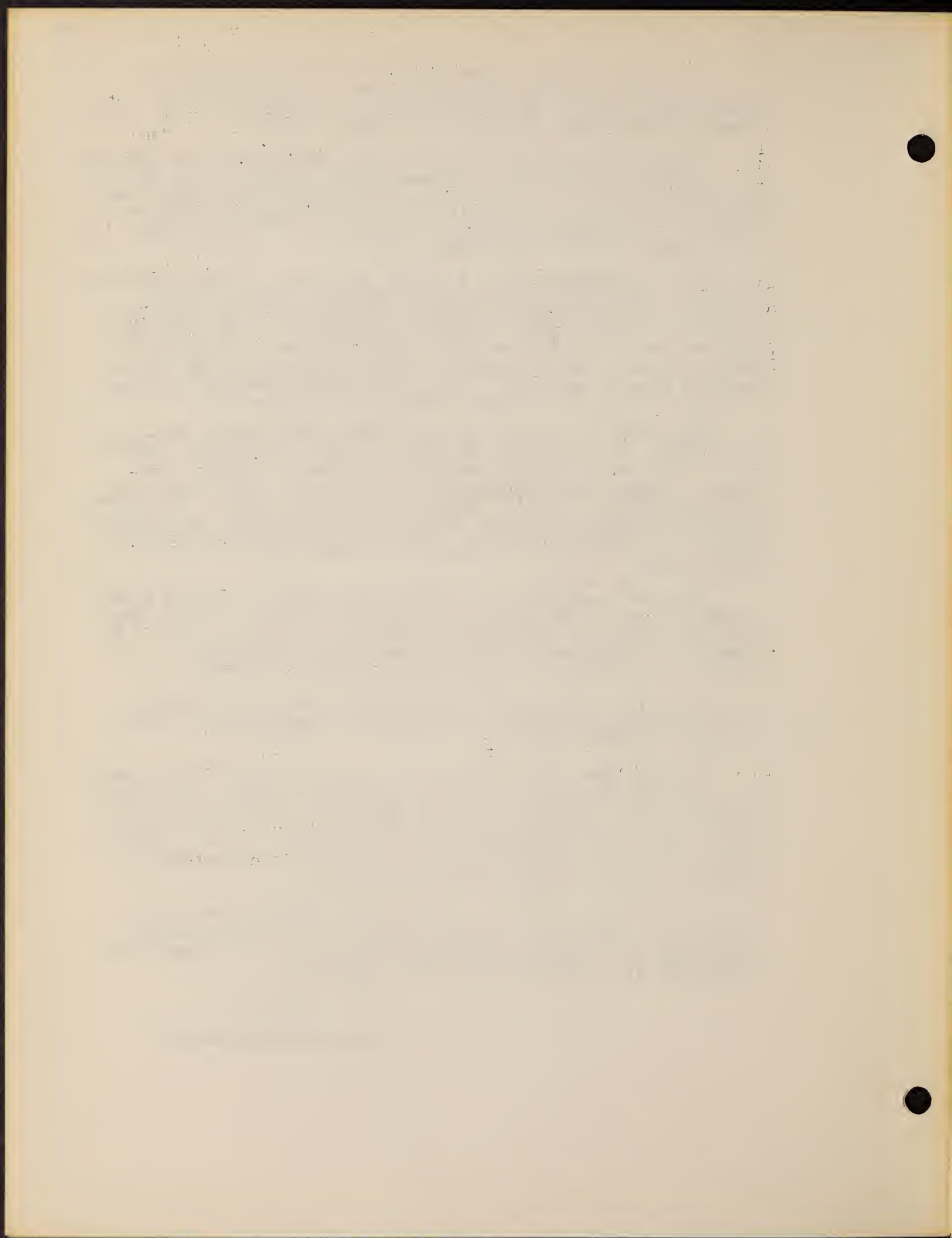
We have just recently located the family of Charles Purdy and his wife Mary, in Portland. One daughter, Maud, now 87, is still living.

The younger days of all the children of our Purdy family in question, before marriage, is not well known. The early married life, I have through my mother's album and letters. Facts concerning the very early history are obtained through old records of land filings, old cemeteries, church records, obituaries and other documents of U. E. L.'s and from the Queen's College and University at Kingston.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rutherford of Rt. 5 Colborne are indirectly related to another branch of the Purdy family. They were extremely helpful and to them is due a good deal of credit for whatever success we have had.

Very sincerely,

Hazel and John Masten



Our Purdy Family in Canada

As we have mentioned every telephone book has a long list of Purdys in Canada. At first this seemed an impossible situation to me. Looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack seemed comparable. Was I foolish on such a mission? All those I had heard anything about had been dead for many years. The younger generations had probably never heard tell of them and cared less to find out. But it was a task toward which we would not give up. I was dedicated to it on account of my mother. As we studied it all, there developed important facts which seemed to indicate that our Purdys were the descendants of some sturdy old characters that history had written up.

When we were in Brighton we were told about an old gentleman named Fries who probably knew my uncle Lewis Purdy. Another person directed us to an old gentleman name Corbin who had made many grave stones in his time. We were told that up on the hill was a large brick home once owned by Lewis A. Purdy. The man living in this house when we went there in August, 1961 was named Nesbitt. All of these people had known Lewis A. Purdy although he had died 50 years before. The son of Mr. Fries, a school administrator, brought out an old book entitled Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte which had an important article about the early Purdys. The young Mrs. Fries served us tea as we wrote about the older Purdys of Canada. We were directed to the cemetery on the hill "Mt. Hope". There we found enclosed within an expensive iron fence, the graves and headstones of the Lewis A. Purdy family. The larger stone was exactly as described by my mother as it was put there for the daughter, Ida, who died at 14 in the early 1870's. We learned much from living people about this uncle and his wife, Mary Louisa Rose Purdy. The old brick house on the hill was an aristocratic old home that still showed its character. There is much more to tell about these Purdys of today and our search for them and about the family in Canada that started this story.

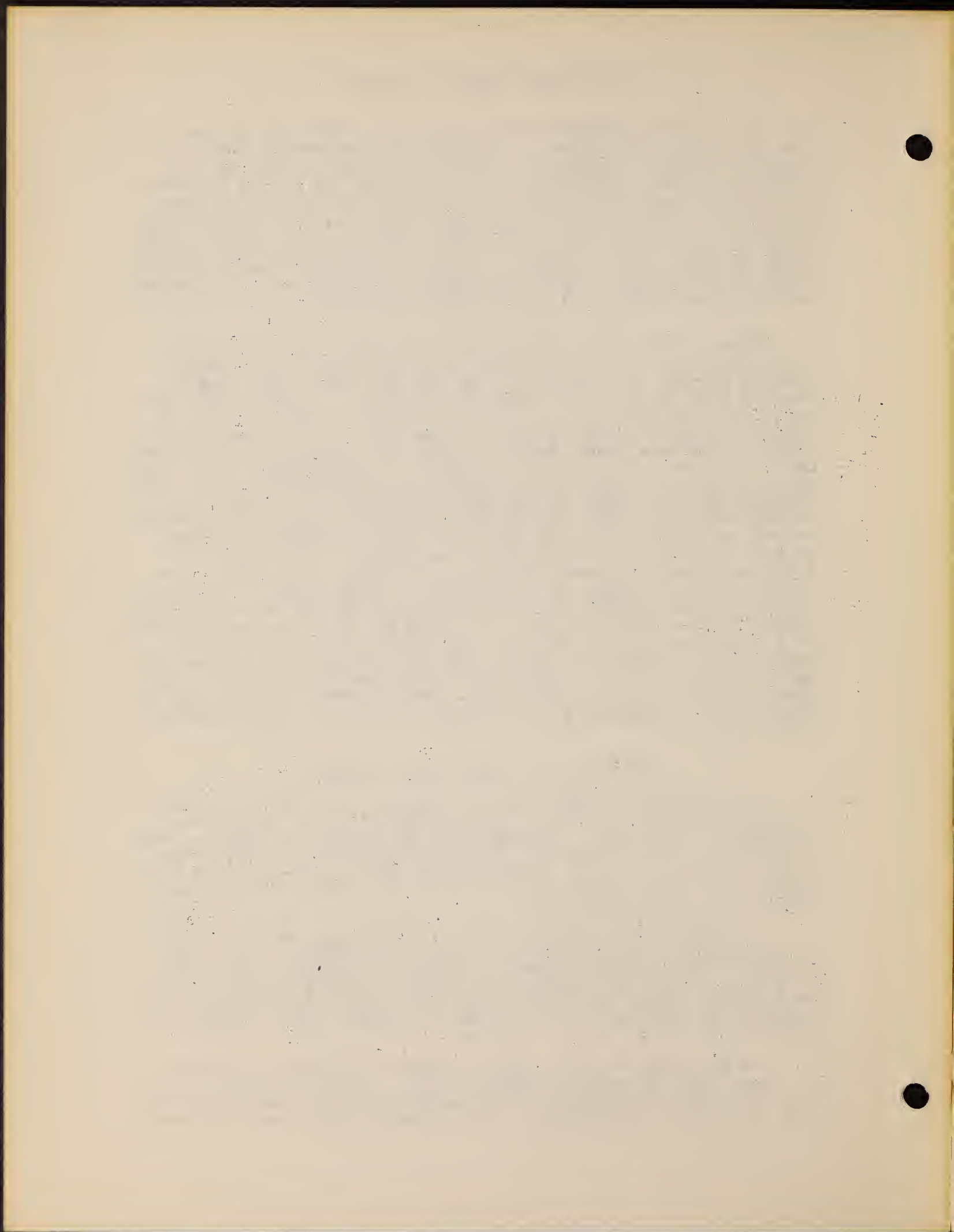
The Purdys of Long Ago in Canada

The Purdys of today was one problem. The Purdys of my mother's day were another. The first Purdys of Canada was becoming a challenge. Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte and its Purdys were a mystery. Could we possibly associate the three groups? Were our Purdys those that history talked about? We began to visit the libraries and the sources of information about early days in Canada.

Information we received from first Cousin Will M. Purdy of Toronto and information from several libraries and other sources began to open up many interrelationships. We began to realize that there were many related Purdys among our own people, and other Purdys not related. After our tour between Kingston and Toronto we returned to Kingston for the last few days of our trip.

In Kingston we were taken to Bath and Picton by Claude V. Purdy and his nephew Douglas Purdy. Douglas showed us his country farm estate. Later we visited the old Cemetery of the U.E. Loyalists at Adolphson. The crowning point was our meet-

Adolphson



ing Dr. H. C. Burleigh of Bath, the Historian of the United Empire Loyalists. Dr. Burleigh helped us in our investigation and has furnished us a lot of material.



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The Purdys of My Mother's Day in Canada
by John W. Masten

As previously mentioned the letters and pictures in my mother's old trunk have been studied of late years at my father's special request. The yearning to know more about my mother's people had been growing within me. I retired from teaching at Fresno State College after 24 years. I retired from a number of business enterprises in 1959. My wife Hazel and myself started to Canada in August, 1961 on a big adventure. We knew no Purdys of my mother's people. We found one Claude V. Purdy of Kingston who recognized my uncle's map of a sawmill built by his ~~great~~ grandfather, Samuel L. Purdy of Castleton. Claude introduced us to his brothers and a sister.

Through a good deal of investigation, personal visitation, trips to cemeteries, old books of the United Empire Loyalists, bulletins from Princes University of Kingston, old histories, land filings, census reports, church records and other sources, we have been able to gather together considerable valuable information.

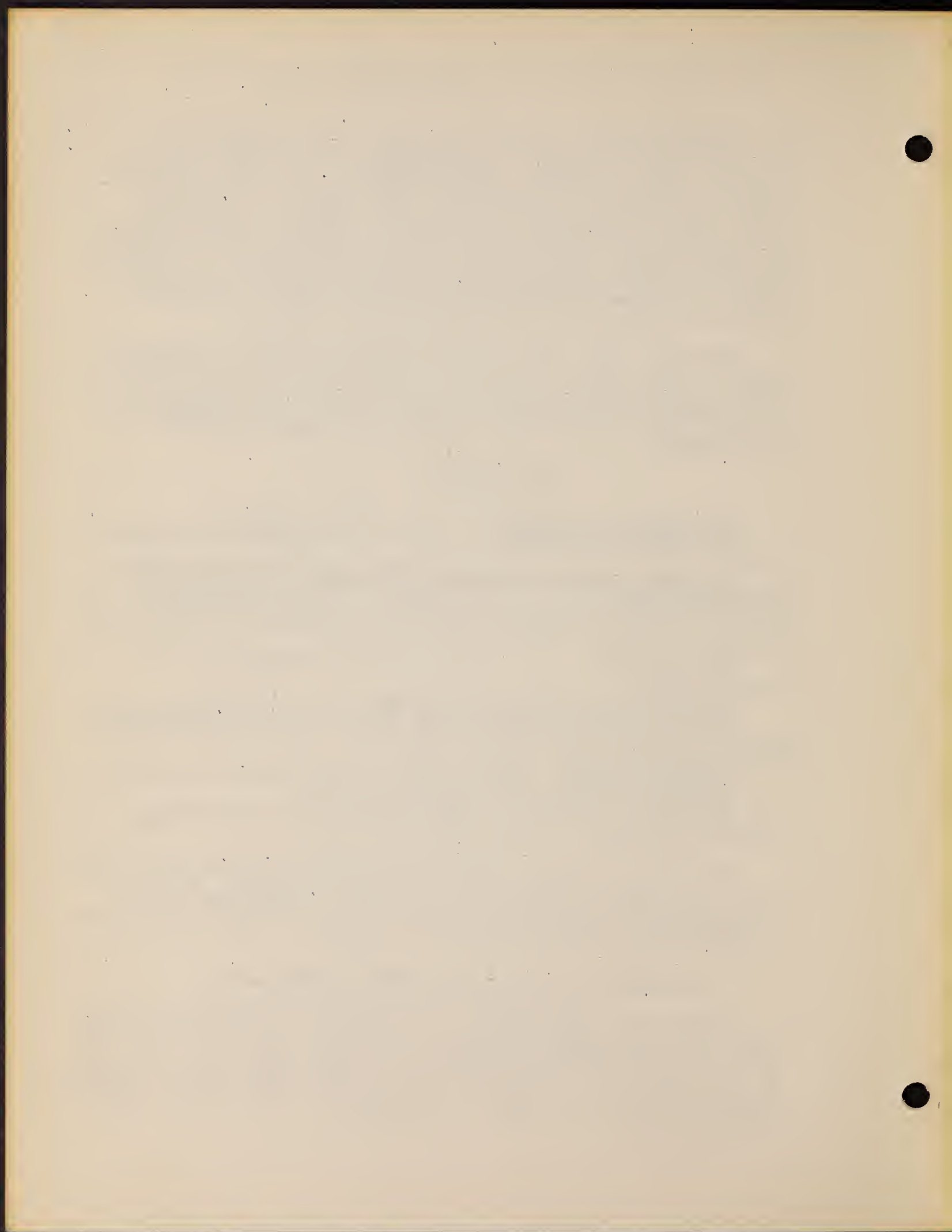
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This list is only a beginning and refers chiefly to material in the H. Pearson Gundy bulletin on Gilbert Purdy. "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte" has been used considerably because it gives many direct relationships of Gilbert Purdy, the brother of David Purdy of Ernesttown.

The Family of the Original Gilbert Purdy, Sr.

There were eight members in this group. All except possibly one of the daughters did come to Canada probably in 1783 and spent the first winter at Sorrel. Several of the older men came up the river to Cataragui the first winter. These were the ones with Michael Grass. Included were the ~~four~~³ Purdy brothers, David, Gilbert, Micajah and Samuel. The girls were Mercy, Rhoda, Mary and Charlotte.



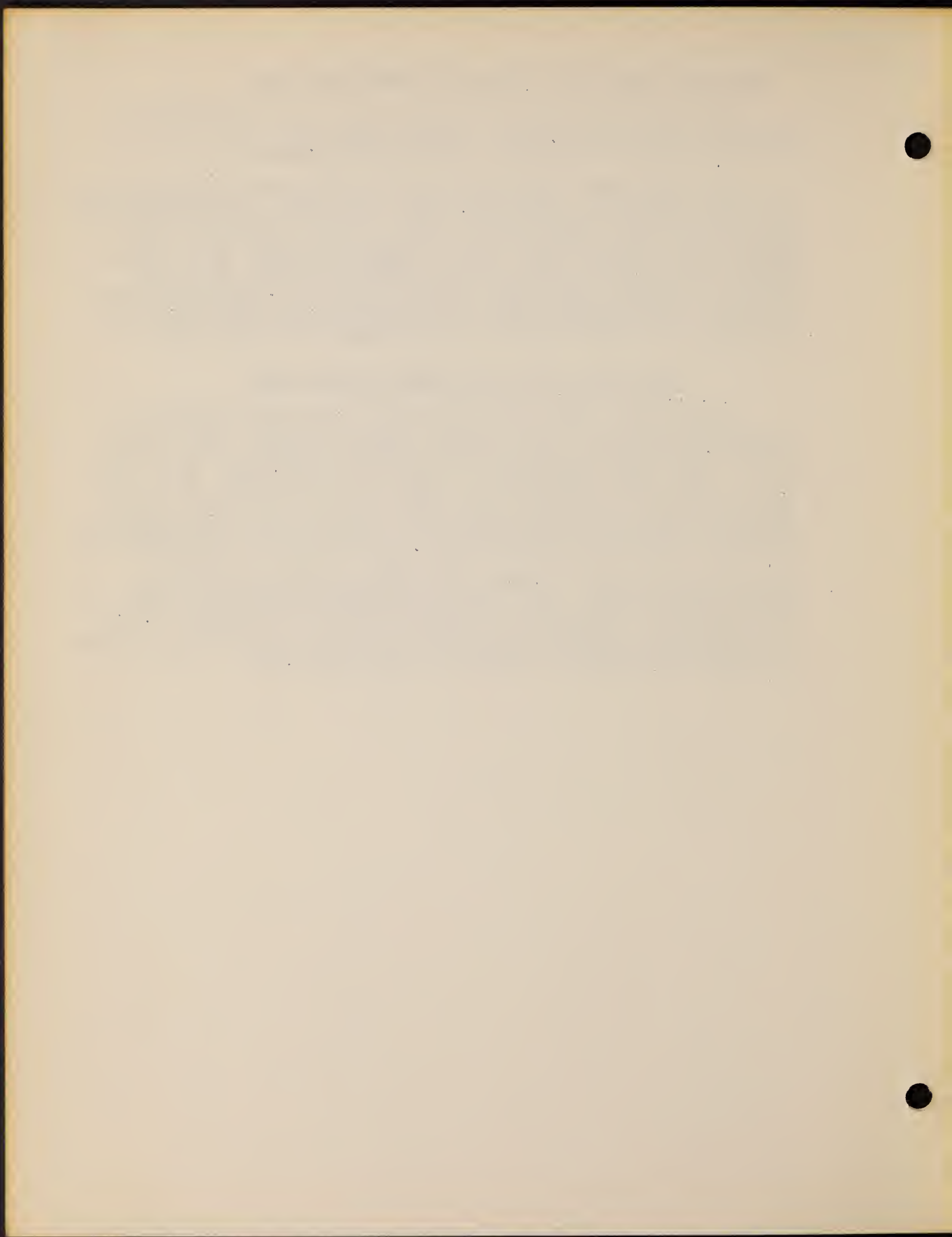
Essential Facts About These Four Purdy Brothers

They were among the very first to get their land because they were with Micael Grass. David Purdy, the oldest got the last lot, No. 42, Township of Ernesttown, ~~however~~.

The other three brothers settled in what now is Kingston and their decendants there are many. The long list of decendants of Gilbert Purdy listed in the book "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte" are of this Gilbert of Canada. It is said that this Micajah had 5 wives, and raised 23 grandchildren. It is necessary to keep the families of these three brothers Gilbert, Micajah and Samuel separate from the family of David, the eldest son, who is the grandfather of the Purdy family being studied. These are the eight children of John Purdy and Anna Fretz.

The Family of David Purdy of Ernesttown

David Purdy, Gilbert's brother was the grandfather of our family group, David Purdy married Abigail Ostrum. The Ostrums settled among the very first few families at Sidney near Bellville. The David Purdys had 7 sons and 2 daughters. It is this family that concerns us most in this story. We will proceed to give in detail the relationship down to the present in several of David's family. Primarily we are interested in John Purdy of Sidney. John Purdy had a family of 11. It is his family that we can follow straight through. His brother Jacob can also be followed in detail. John and Jacob married sisters Anna and Anelia Fretz. The other brothers and sisters cannot be followed in such detail because we do not find living decendants as yet. We do find interrelationships of considerable note in the records and from older citizens which will be added later.



Our United Empire Loyalist Purdys of Canada

by J.W.M.

The original Gilbert Purdy, Sr. of this study raised his family on a farm near Newburgh on the Hudson in New York. He joined the British army in 1775 because he was a fervent loyalist and died on the way to Philadelphia. His family of eight children and their mother were badly treated by the revolutionaries and their property confiscated. History records that they all went to Canada with a certain first group that arrived at Sorrel on the St. Lawrence river in 1783.

There were four men and four women members of this family. They became members of the very first contingent under Michael Grass. The four boys made their way up to Kingston the very first winter and were granted land among the very first. In 1784 most of the others of the party arrived from Sorrel where they had wintered. This is a matter of history all of which is explained later.

The names of these four sons of Gilbert of New York were David, Gilbert, Samuel and Micajah. Our story begins with their settlement on the very first land near Collins Bay. Life was pretty rugged but within a few years they were married and were raising families.

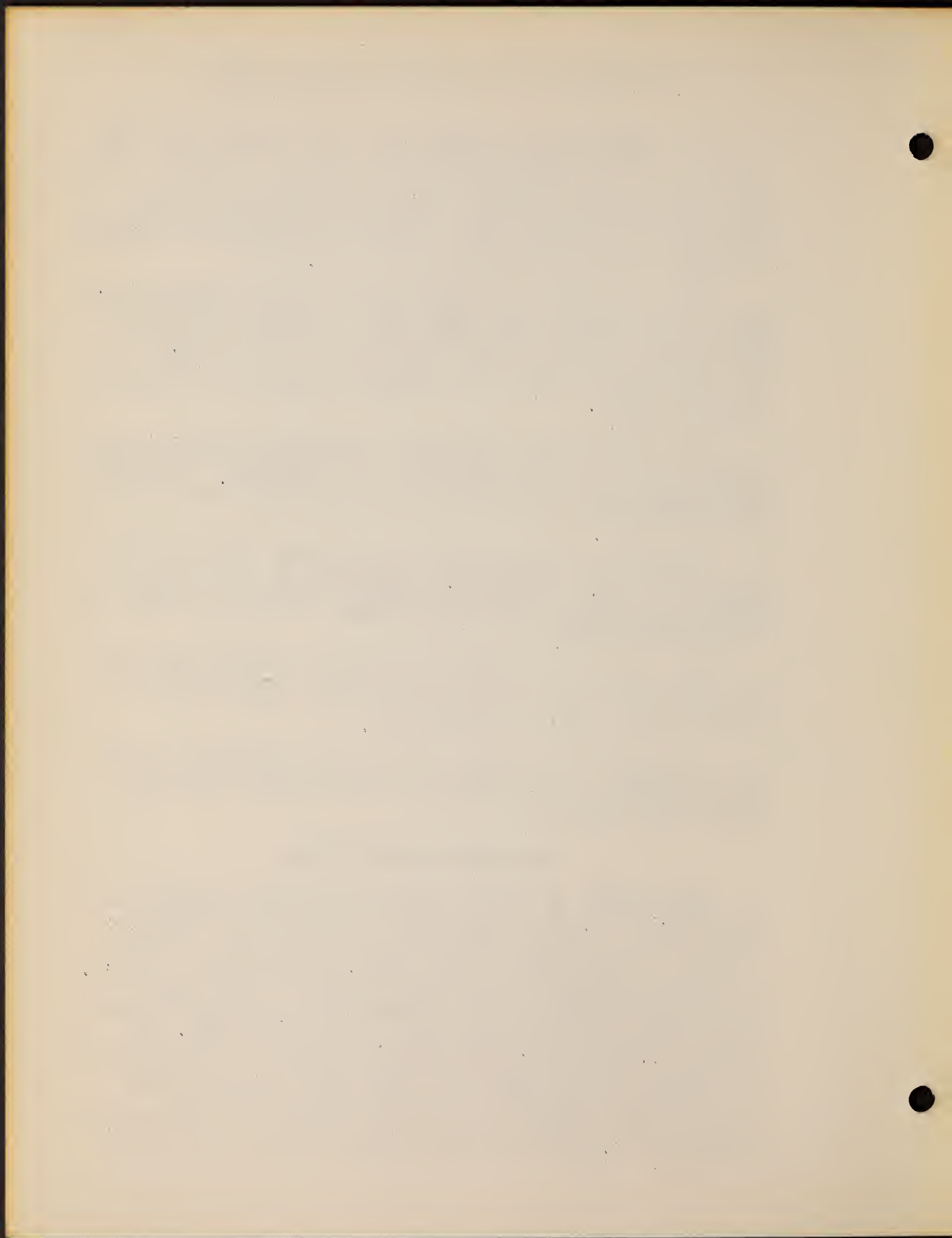
David the eldest son built a store house still standing, near Collins Bay. Gilbert, Jr., the second in age settled in Kingston and his descendants are written up in an old book named Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte (anonymous author) with considerable detail.

The other two sons Samuel and Micajah settled along the Bay and their children became well known. Samuel later moved to another locality. The four girls were married well, to several of the leaders among the men.

The descendants of these Purdys became prominent and well known citizens of early life all along the bay and lake but started principally from Kingston to Ernesttown where they raised large families.

The Family of David Purdy

David Purdy, the eldest was as a young man a sergeant in the King's Army. He married Abigail Ostrum from Sidney whose parents were among the very first settlers near Belleville. David built a store on his land near Collins Bay. He raised a family of seven boys and two girls. Considerable is known about the children of this family raised early in the 1800's. In turn they mostly all had large families. The family of David Purdy of Ernesttown included Gilbert, Rulph, Elizabeth, Samuel D., Micajah D., Mary, John, Jacob and Joseph. All settled in Ernesttown except Mary who married a John Abbott of Kingston. She and John removed to Sidney. The families of all of these Purdys grew up, to begin with along the lake shore between Kingston and Colbourg mostly around Bath (Ernesttown). We are particularly interested in the family of John Purdy although the family of Jacob Purdy one of John's



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brothers is particularly well known by us because these two younger brothers married the Fretz sisters. Also one of Jacob's grandchildren, Mrs. Elva Mac Hobbs is still living and has been of great help in gathering material for her family as well as material in general.

David Purdy and Abigail Ostrom

David was the eldest of the four brothers who came from New York in 1783. They raised nine children. David and his three brothers came down from Sorel in 1783 with the very first group under Micael Grass and got their land among the very first. David's lot was No. 42 Township of Ernesttown. This family includes John Purdy the father of the Purdy-Fretz family of eleven. Elsewhere is found the story of the three Fretz sisters who married John Purdy, Jacob Purdy, sons of David above, and Joseph Rose. They were the daughters of Allen-Fretz.

Taken from Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte, an old book available in large libraries, is a resume of the Ostrom family of Sidney by Dr. H. C. Burleigh. The Ostroms were among the first settlers of Sidney. Ruliff Ostrom married Elizabeth Yarrington in Albany, New York. He died in 1802 and his wife in 1807. They came from New York. Abigail was a daughter. Another daughter Diana married Abel Gilbert of Sidney on February 16, 1811.

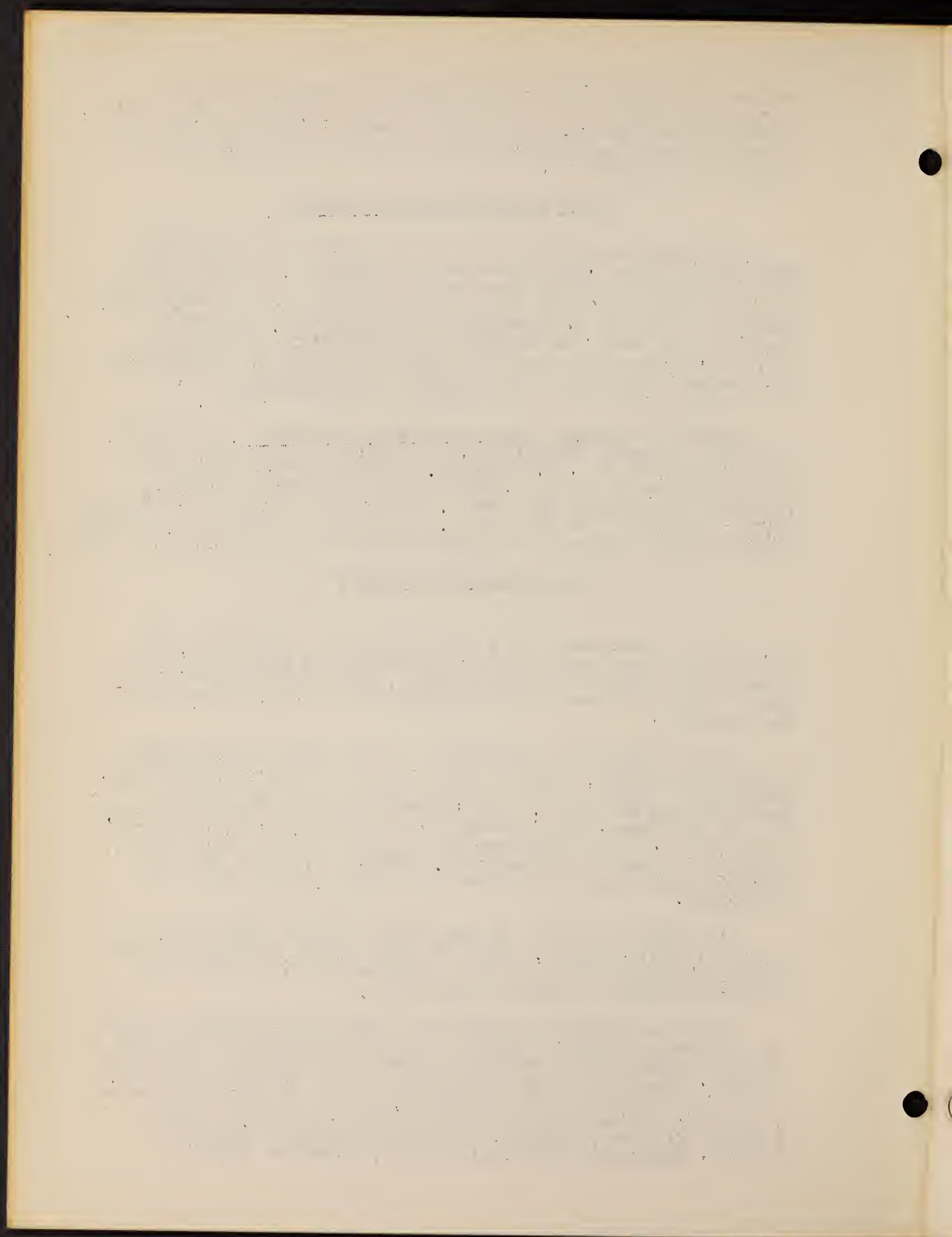
The Family of John Purdy

One of these seven boys (sons of David & Abigail), John Purdy raised his family at or near Sidney and Smithfield. He married Anna Fretz of Fredricksburg. John Purdy had 11 children. Eight of these raised families that we can follow down to the present.

We are primarily interested in this family of John Purdy because this family includes our immediate relatives and thier decendants. John's father, David, was one of the original four brothers from New York. John's grandfather was Gilbert Purdy, Sr., of New York, John's uncles were Gilbert, Micajah and Samuel of Kingston. John's brothers and sisters were the children of Abigail and David of Ernesttown. John's aunts were the four original Purdy sisters from New York: Mercy, Rhoda, Mary and Charlotte.

The eleven children of John Purdy and Anna Fretz were Maturia, Lewis, Samuel, David, Charles, Ralph, Ridley and Emma with known decendants and three, Elizabeth (died young) and Phillip and Mary of unknown decendants.

There are numerous cousins and other relationships between the children of John's family and other influencial community people in Belleville, Trenton, Brighton and Castleton and up to Toronto. There are many cousins between the families of John's brothers and sisters and his family. There are many interrelationships. Among these are such families as Days, Palmers, Farleys, Gilberts, Ostroms, Shibleys, Wartmans, Campsells, Dettors, Enburgs, Abbotts, Ellerbecks, Brundage, Caverley,



Dedicated to Emma Purdy, My Mother

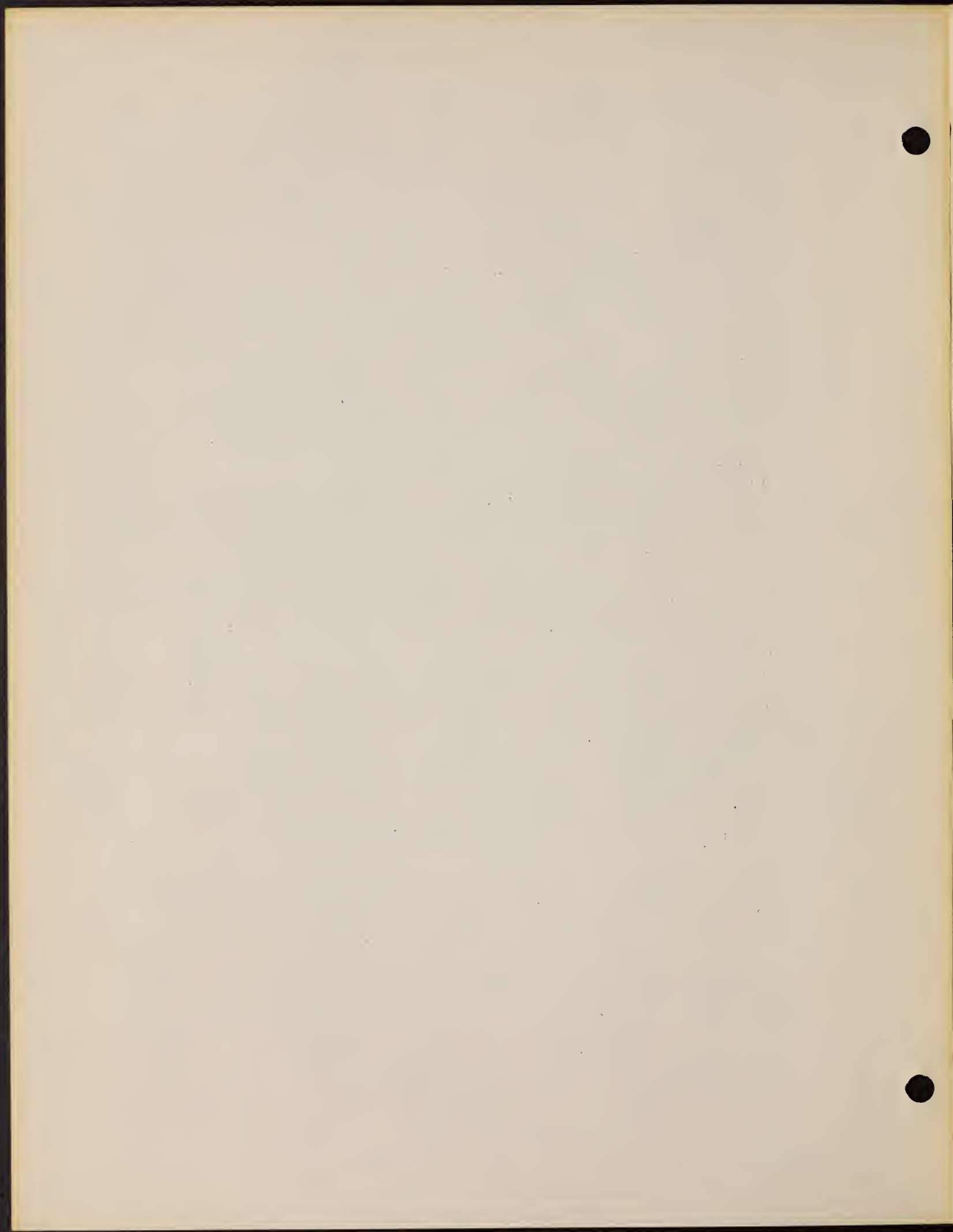
Delving into an old trunk, after retirement from a life spent in many agricultural activities, the writer came upon a stack of old letters, pictures and maps concerning my mother's early life in Canada. I knew of my mother only through hear-say. She died when I was less than three years old and my brother Charles less than two. My father often asked me to read some of those sweetheart letters written to him from Canada to Kansas. He said I would learn what kind of a mother I had. We two boys were raised by our grandparents and aunts and uncles. They all spoke highly of our mother and sadly about her tragic death. There was real western romance concerning the lives of my parents in Nebraska along the South Dakota border in the Indian country. There were troubles between the early settlers and the cattleman. There was the covered wagon journey to Nebraska. There was the life on the plains and prairie during the blizzards and cold winters of the 1870's. We boys were born in a little sod house alongside the Indian reservation. It was still a little sod house when mother died after the birth of the third child in May, 1887.

Grandmother John Purdy was with us. She like my father took up prairie land and seemed quite satisfied with the challenge of the West. Grandmother had already raised 11 children. She and her husband John had drawn their land in Sidney, Concession 4 of Ontario near Belleford in 1836. She knew what pioneering meant. John Purdy was born in 1803 a number of one of the first families of Ernestown. His father David, and mother Abigail Ostrom had nine children. David came from New York. Their names are history among the first pioneers.

Grandmother John Purdy went back to Canada after mother's death. Father took the family back to Kansas. His people were early pioneers of Kansas in the 1870's and of Iowa of the 50's and 60's.

The writer was thrilled by these old letters about the family of Purdys to which mother belonged and grandmother belonged. Mother Emma wrote thrilling accounts about her brothers and sister during the early 70's when she was in Canada.

The writer did not know a single Purdy in Canada when he read those letters. But going to Canada to delve into the old story of John Purdy who died in 1863 and Grandmother Anna was a real adventure. My wife Hazel became interested in the challenge also. We knew there would be none left of Grandmother's family of 11. My mother was the youngest. She was born in 1853. Would we find any vestige of this family of my mother in records or graves or by hearsay? Would there be any cousins? Would there be any descendants of cousins? Would they be friendly? Would they consider us outsiders coming up there to unbury skeletons? Would they misunderstand our enthusiasm and frank admiration of every soul named Purdy to whom we were related. Every one somehow seemed an image of that mother who had become a symbol of perfection.



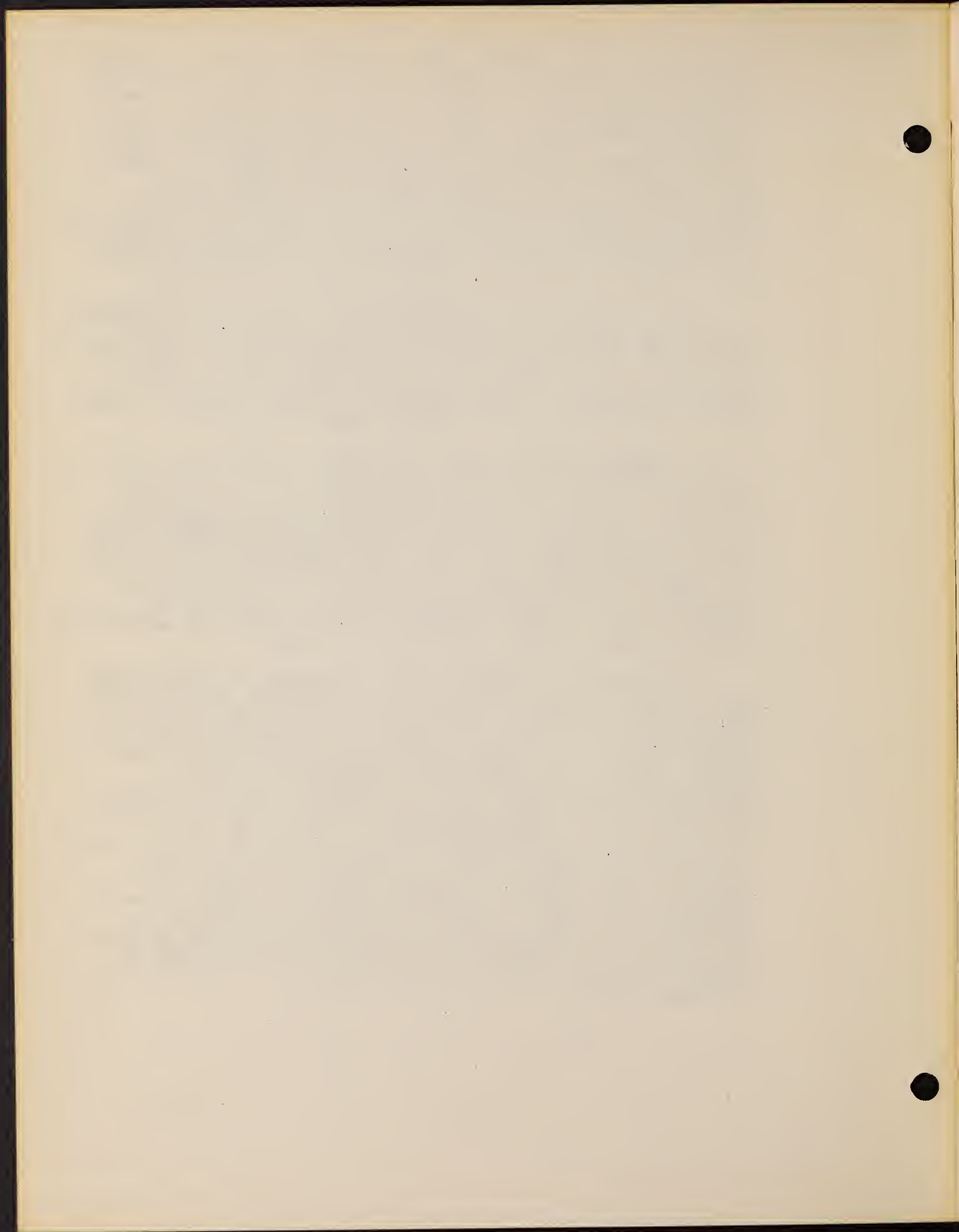
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How we might rate with the Joneses and this matter of prestige and wealth or education, of kind of house or car, or size of diamond was clear out of the picture. We as teachers always looked straight across at people, neither up or down. We had many misgivings at first. We felt that we Californians perhaps had no business inquiring into the families of fellow Purdys who were Canadians. My name is not Purdy. I wanted to be accepted into the Purdy fraternity anyway. So I repeated that if my mother's family was 50% Purdy blood, I was 25% and since practically no cousins were alive, I was more of a Purdy by blood relation than any of the $12\frac{1}{2}$ percentages of the younger generations. That might be for better or for worse but it did emphasize the Purdy part of my heredity.

Later on some of the younger generations sort of dampened my ardor by saying that perhaps the dilution of Purdy blood interjected that of still more important ancestry. That could very well be true, of course, in any case. However, if as geneticists tell us there are millions of genes or characters on the chromosomes, a mere dilution of second cousins to 1/8th would leave plenty genetic similarities.

With much enthusiasm and little else we took a jet to Toronto, Canada from Fresno, California. We were armed with an old album, a number of old letters and a map of a saw mill and grist mill belonging to a certain Samuel L. Purdy near Castleton, Ontario. We knew that Samuel was my uncle but that he would be dead now. We knew he had several children in the 1870's, probably dead also. We stayed over night in a hotel in Toronto. Looking in the telephone book I found some 60 Purdys listed. I mumbled something to my wife about the needle in the haystack. I began to wonder about the advisability of such a search without more definite leads.

We did have one definite lead. Friends, the Rutherfords near Colborne, were cousins of special friends, Colonel Waite and his wife of Fresno. We heard at home that Rhea Waite's grandmother was a Purdy. Mrs. Marjorie Rutherford helped us locate a number of Purdys related to our friends the Waites. Chiefly, however, Mrs. Rutherford through her sister, a Mrs. Flindall of Kingston, Ontario took our map of the old saw mill and grist mill owned by Samuel L. Purdy of Castleton to a Mr. Claude V. Purdy of Kingston, a clothier there. Mr. Purdy recognized the old map as a picture of the old home of his grandfather Samuel Purdy. When we arrived in Toronto therefore, we planned an immediate trip to Kingston. At Kingston, we met Claude V. Purdy and his wife Olive who owned clothing stores there. Claude and his wife started us on our search in a very generous way which is explained elsewhere. We will always be grateful to Claude V. and Olive Purdy of Kingston for their kindness to us during those first days in a strange place.



"Mother O'Mine"

"If I were hanged on the highest hill;
I know whose love would follow me still;
If I were drowned in the deepest sea,
I know whose tears would come down to me;
If I were dammed in body and soul,
I know whose prayers would make me whole
Mother O'Mine! Mother O'Mine." Kipling

This story is built around a mother who had two sons who never knew her. That feeling of protection that a mother gives was never a part of our nature. Nevertheless there has always been a reverence for what a mother might be like and a desire to learn some day more and more about that mother we never knew.

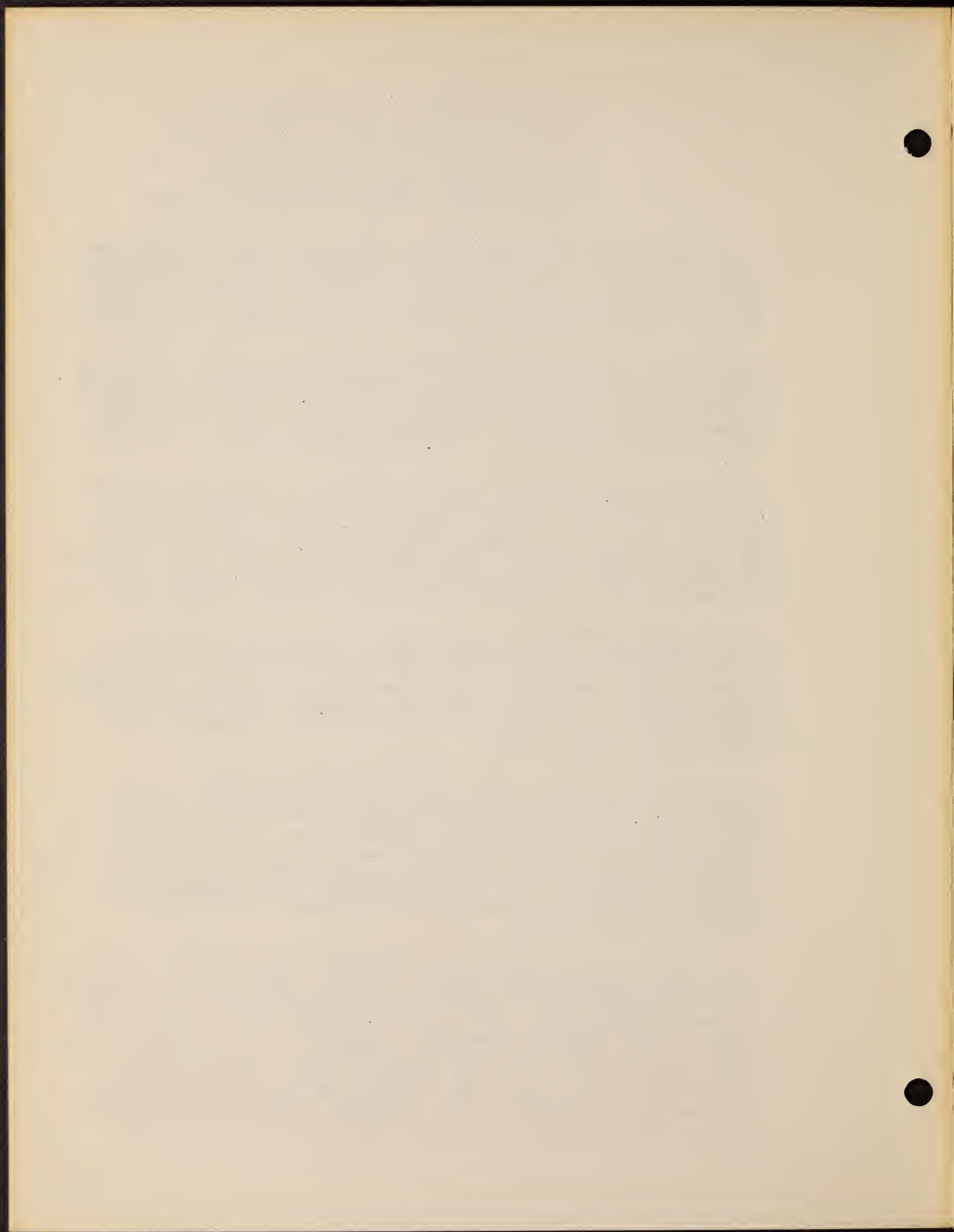
The writer was one of those two boys. We were born in a little sod house on the plains of Northern Nebraska. This was close to where part of the Sioux Indians had been corraled in a reservation along the South Dakota border, and was shortly after the Custer battle. It seemed a good place to homestead where shortly before it was too dangerous to do so.

My father's people were from Iowa. My grandfather owned the first store and post office in Spencer. My father had a winter's work clerking in a store belonging to Charles Purdy in Iowa Falls, Iowa. There he met a young lady in 1878, the sister of Charles Purdy, named Emma Purdy. Emma later went back to Canada where she remained until the Spring of 1881. Then she returned to Iowa to marry my father-to-be, on March 22, 1881.

Shortly after in a high spirit of romance and adventure, they fitted out their covered wagon. With them was father's brother Frank and his new bride Nina Hoyt. All that both couples possessed and needed for a new start in what seemed a wonderful new land was with them in their two wagons. My father often told me about the thrills of this adventure. Nothing seemed impossible of achievement.

Northern Nebraska was dangerous Indian country in the middle 1870's. The white settlers and stockmen had crowded the Indians further and further north. The buffalo had all been wontonly killed by those seeking hides. Buffalo bones and decaying carcasses were bleaching on the prairie everywhere. Stockmen were bringing in herds of long horned Texas cattle to eat the buffalo grass on the vacant plains of southern Nebraska. But the Indians were rebelling and killing the settlers who ventured too far north.

Kansas was the frontier and was where my father's parents and family has come from Spencer, Iowa. Spencer was in Northern Iowa. His brothers and sisters had grown up there, the oldest to marriageable age. Ten or fifteen years before Spencer and Northern Iowa were wild prairie. Kansas was now booming. Those were the days of Wyatt Earp, Dodge City and the six shooter. Border outlaws and Civil War guerillas were still asserting their right to kill and steal. Herds of long horns driven by lawless southern cowboys were coming in along the old Chisholm Trail to the railroads in Kansas or sold to the venturesome



stockmen further north.

The Sioux Indians were desperate as they were forced further north out of their buffalo country. And they fought back for their very existence up to Custer's time in 1876.

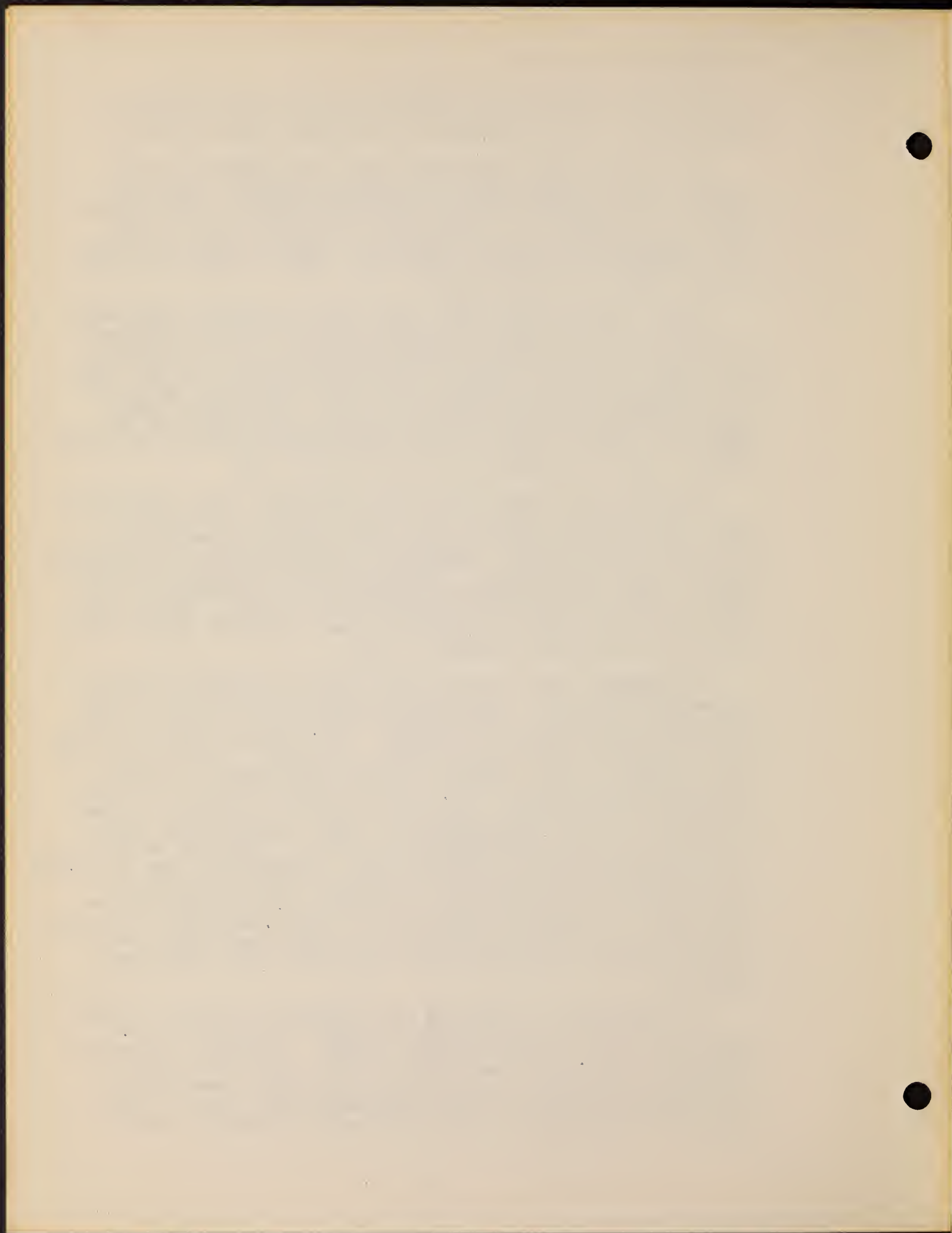
The Indians then were driven back and forced on reservations. The stockmen backed by wealthy eastern interests began to overrun the country of Northern Nebraska, the Dakotas, Wyoming and Montana. In five years after Custer the plains were appropriated by these stockmen. However, settlers were also rushing in to take up homesteads. The struggle resulting between them is another story.

Right into the thick and thin of this wild west adventure my father took his young bride Emma Purdy. Father maintained that she was the prettiest, the bravest and the most sensible girl on the whole frontier and everybody wondered how he could be so lucky. He was a proud, happy fellow ready to tackle any sort of hardship in any kind of weather. The tougher competition the better chance he had to win. He figured that he could out work, out last and out figure every hardship and every problem. And he had only one arm to do it with.

For five years the little family struggled on. He was out where the stockmen said no settlers could stay. They stole his stock and tried to run him off. Other settlers came and together they fought back. Marauding renegade indians occasionally come from the reservation. Living dangerously was an everyday affair. But they were getting started in a permanent way with stock, corrals, barns and equipment. The winter I was born in 1884 was so cold and blizzards so common that much of the stock was lost. My brother arrived in 1885.

Grandmother Purdy came to live with her daughter during the second spring in 1883. She and my mother were too closely attached to be apart. Grandmother Purdy took up land and was a world of encouragement to mother. She helped take care of us boys. She had a small home of her own nearby. I still have the little pistol she kept to help protect her from the Indians. Grandmother Purdy had already raised eleven children in Sidney Concession 4 of Ontario. She was 71 when I was born. She was 40 when my mother, the youngest was born. Grandmother Purdy married my grandfather John Purdy in 1830. They took up their land in Sidney near Bellville in 1836. Grandmother knew all about the hardships of the pioneers of Canada. Her stories to my father of the early hardships in Canada and her wonderful husband and his fortitude against endless misfortunes and bad health were part of my earliest memories as told by my father. The Purdys of those days never lacked what some call "intestinal fortitude".

It seemed that everything was working out toward a wonderful year in 1887. In early May a sister was born. All was going well when suddenly tragedy struck. My mother became desperately ill and in a few days was dead. That was the end of everything worthwhile for father. He left the homestead for Kansas going back to my other grandparents and aunts. They raised us. Grandmother Purdy went back to Canada. Several of



Several of the Purdy brothers offered to take us two boys and raise us. David of Mason City, Iowa, Charles of Iowa Falls, Iowa, Ridley of Glen Miller and Samuel of Castleton. They all loved my beautiful young mother who sought romance and love in the wild west and came to a tragic end in a little sod house on the plains of Northern Nebraska.



Delving Into An Old Purdy Family Story

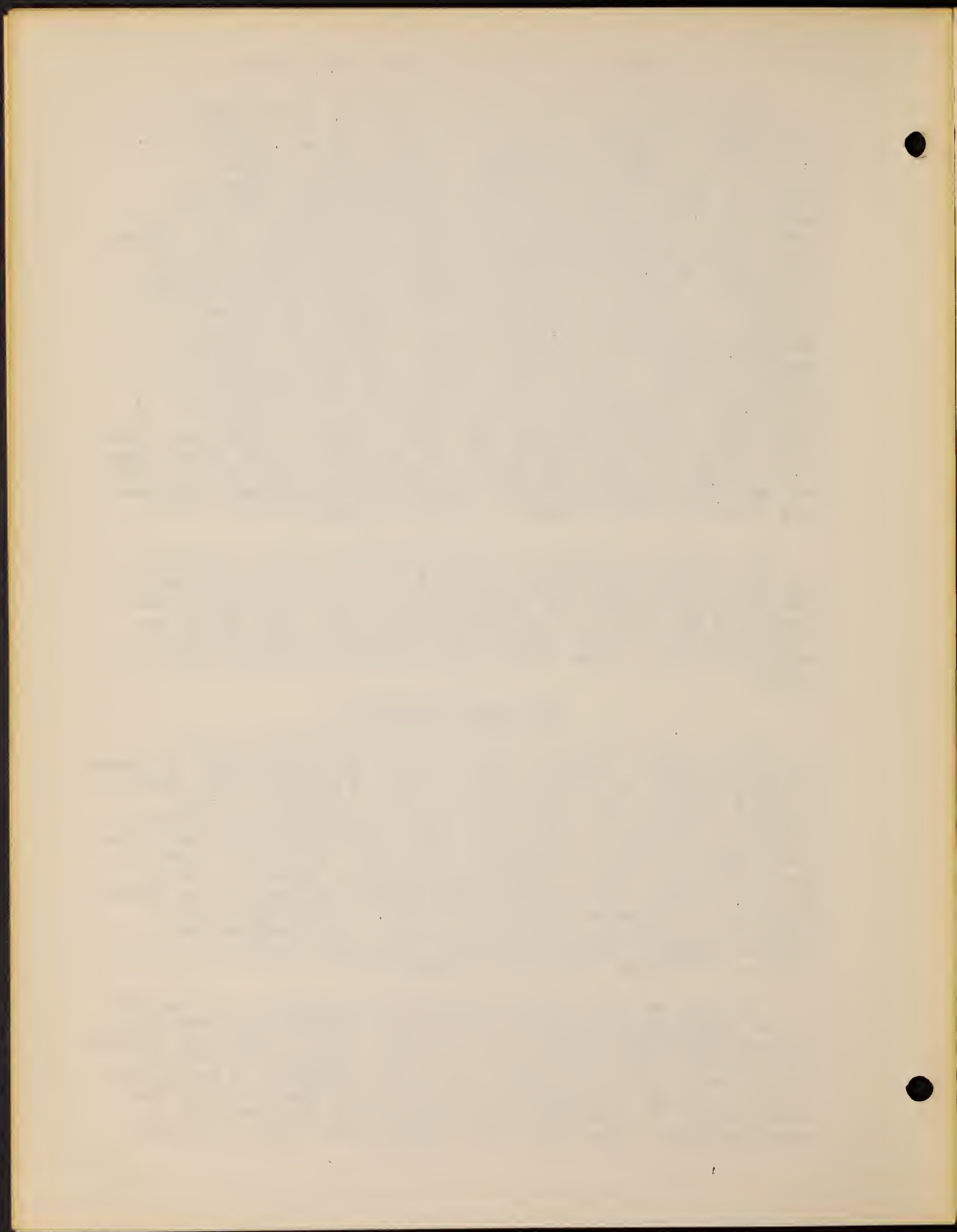
At my father's death in 1935 I inherited among other heirlooms, a box of letters, an old album and some old pictures of my mother's family in Canada. The letters were mostly written by my mother to my father between 1878 and 1881. At this time they were corresponding before their marriage on March 22, 1881. These I put away for twenty-five years more. As we two brothers grew up our father often told us about the mother who died when we were too young to know her. And likewise about the grandmother who lived with us for the first years of our lives. My father had often asked me to read these letters and learn to know more about my mother and her family in Canada. I retired in 1954 from 24 years on the faculty at Fresno State College. My wife and myself sold out a number of business enterprises in 1959. We have traveled a good bit in various foreign countries since then. My wife also was a teacher for a number of years. We are both graduates of the University of California. My brother is also a graduate of the University of California, an architect for many years in San Francisco, California. We two brothers, the sons of Emma J. Purdy have both participated in many business as well as professional occupations. We both have families. My wife and myself had four children and now have eleven grandchildren. My brother and his wife have one son, Franklin, who is married and has a daughter born in 1961.

My wife and I started in August, 1961 on a big adventure: That was to visit the eastern part of a Canada we had learned to love from its western side years before; and to search for some vestige of the family of my mother, Emma Purdy. How richly we were rewarded is almost beyond comprehension. There has been unfolded a story of one of the most interesting family groups in Canada.

The Purdys of Canada

By no means does this story concern itself with all the Purdys of Canada. When we landed via jet from California in Toronto in August, 1961, we did not know a soul. I counted sixty Purdys in the telephone book. We knew of certain relatives of some friends in California named the Arthur Rutherfords of Colborne in Ontario Province. We had news from Mrs. Rutherford that a certain Claude V. Purdy of Kingston recognized a map I had sent of a sawmill and grist mill belonging to my uncle, Samuel L. Purdy. He had said that this was his grandfather's property. Mrs. Arthur Rutherford of Colborne through her sister, a Mrs. Flindall of Kingston had discovered this lead for us. Sam Purdy was my mother's brother. Her letters told much about him when he was a young man and about his home in Castleton.

We took the train down to Kingston from Toronto. Along the way we passed through the towns so aptly described in those old letters: The green grassy hills, the lake on our right; the pretty brick or stone farm houses and clean farm yards; the quaint old church yards. It still looked to us as we imagined it was in the letters. Surely one hundred years had not changed much of this countryside. We noted that the population of Brighton had scarcely changed since the days of grandmother Purdy. Toronto,



however, was like our largest cities in California. But dear old Brighton, thank God, for one old landmark. Later we were to find our gold mine of the old family story there and at Trenton.

We arrived at Kingston after some three or four hours travel through so much beautiful countryside that we began to call it all a beautiful park. My wife remarked that it all seemed to be planted to lawn. And then she said there are so many flowers and no weeds. I reacted a bit here and said I don't mind finding lakes, streams and green trees in every picture, but don't tell me there aren't any weeds. You see we have plenty of weeds in California and there are plenty of places the camera won't take a beautiful picture by accident.

We had written Claude V. Purdy of Kingston that we were coming but we did not expect that he would receive us so kindly and be so hospitable. Both he and his wife Olive were managing separate Youth Center Stores which they owned and were very busy people. Yet they took us into their lovely home and Claude gave us several days of his time before we felt well enough started to venture on our own. We showed Claude the old family album of his grandfather's family of brothers and sisters. We told him about my mother's letters and much they said about the old Purdy family. Claude brought us up to date as to where he thought we might get information. He took us to Bellville where we met his brother and wife, Edward Albert Purdy, and to Trenton and Brighton and Castleton and back to our friends the Rutherfords between Castleton and Colborne. At Castleton we saw the old mill and mill pond and home of Samuel L. Purdy and of his son Will and his family, after the time of Samuel. We stopped at the graveyard where Samuel and his wife were buried. In the same graveyard was the headstone of "Sam's" son Walter and several children of "Lou" who was Claude's father. These were, a brother and a sister of Claude's. In our conversation we learned much about Sam's family of three boys and one girl. There are all dead now, only the wives of two of the sons remain. These are first the wife of Walter, Eva Mae Purdy, who lives at Peterborough, Ontario, and second, Mrs. Will Purdy, the wife of the youngest son, Will Purdy of Castleton. Later on we visited with them both and learned about their families.

After this big day with Claude and several lovely evening engagements, we rented a sturdy, 1961 Pontiac sedan for our journey along the lake to cover in detail the old home towns of my mother Emma and her brothers, sisters and parents. In all we traveled over 1600 miles in this most interesting search. We were well rewarded with information. We were thrilled by the stories and the history we learned.

The Purdy Country of My Mother's Letters

The old Purdy family of my grandparents and my mother and her brothers and sisters was located between Bellville and Castleton and north of there to Peterborough and Coc Hill. We came down to Colborne from Kingston that first day and were invited into the home of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Rutherford who were farming on a lovely old farm on the Telephone Road. The Rutherfords were not relatives of ours but were cousins to close friends of ours in Fresno. Colonel Woite was a retired army engineer and his wife Rhea was born and raised in this country near the Rutherfords. On a trip to

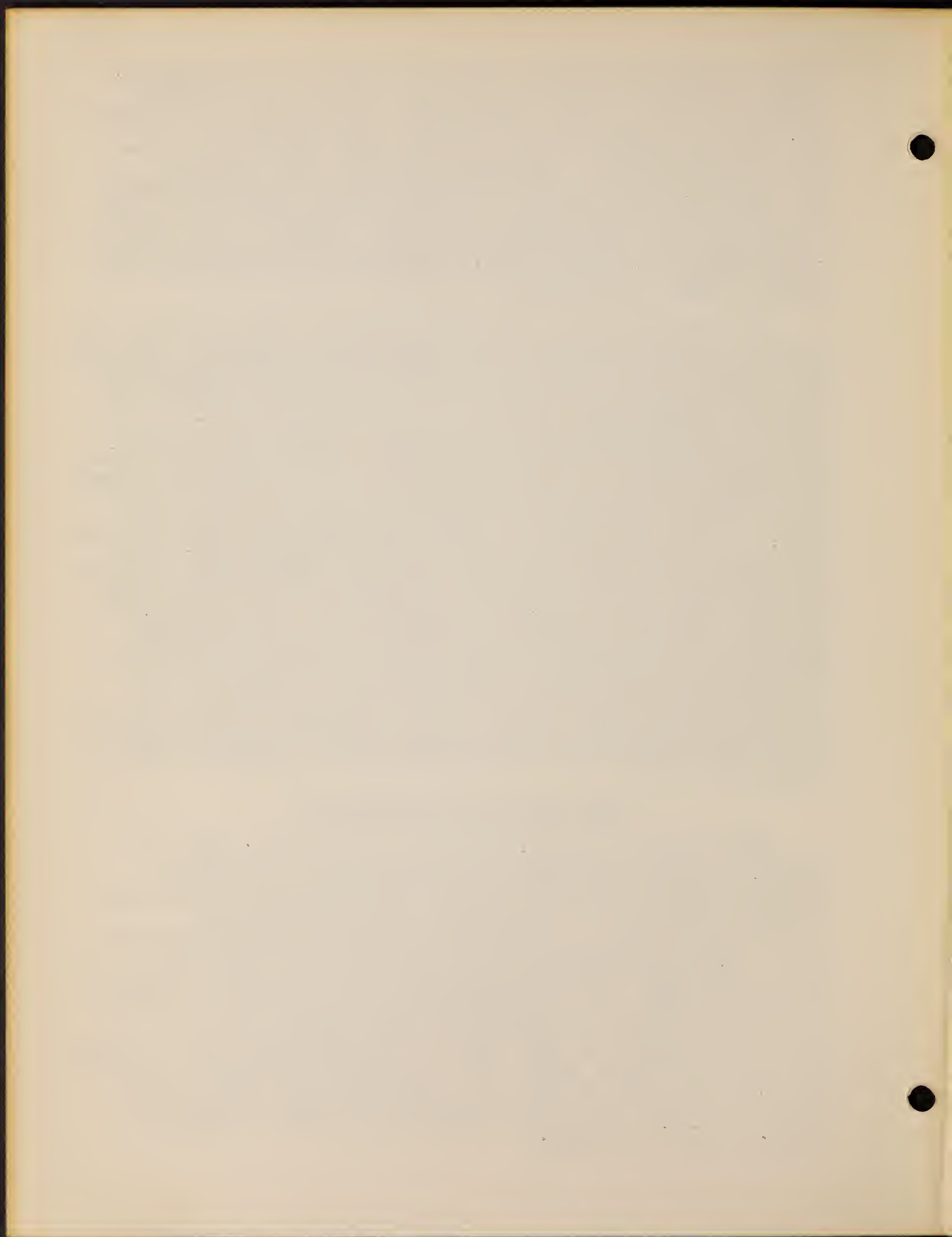


Canada in 1959 she remarked to us that she had been in Brighton. It developed that her grandmother was a Purdy. So, for almost a year we delved into the relationships of the Waites, Rutherfords, Walkers and Clarks trying to find where our Turdys fitted into it. After all sorts of investigating nothing developed to prove relationship between a large group of Turdys around Crenahal and Salem, and Colborne and our Turdys of Castleton nearby except the probability that one of our first Turdys in Canada moved down from Kingston and Colins Bay to Haldimand. Anyway, I was forced to give up calling Mrs. Rutherford, Cousin Marjorie and Mrs. Waite, Cousin Rhea until further proof. Much later it has developed that my grandfather, John, had a brother Gilbert who was probably the father of Rhea's grandmother.

Mrs. Rutherford knew the whole countryside. Her assistance was valuable beyond comparison. Her husband Arthur and herself went with us on trip after trip visiting old cemeteries, looking up relatives and talking to old timers. I learned a lot about the agriculture of Canada on their fine dairy farm. I learned a lot about the tobacco industry just starting all around their big farm. We were at this the Bannockburn Farm for ten days and every day it was a marvelous example of Canadian hospitality and generosity. The fine farm garden supplied a good part of our food. We shall never forget the Rutherfords of Colborne. We hope some day to see them arrive at our home in California. In no other way can we repay them. Their son runs the eighty cow dairy. They had eighty acres of sweet corn. Their own milk, eggs, cream and milk topped it off. Their home freezer had meats and poultry. The view of contented cattle in knee high grass, and picturesque lake Ontario in the distance; of fields of oats, shoulder high and all lush with rain water growth. All this really was something in comparison with our California droughts and expensive irrigation at least in spring and summer. They told us it was \$100 an acre land, and I thought of the price of some of our stock grazing "20 acre per cow" foothills. The Rutherfords had lived on that land for several generations. It meant more than a home to them. It had a history. So when I heard that the tobacco people had recently bought it, I hated to think that someday the name Rutherford might disappear and their forbears forgotten.

Our Journey to Castleton Mill

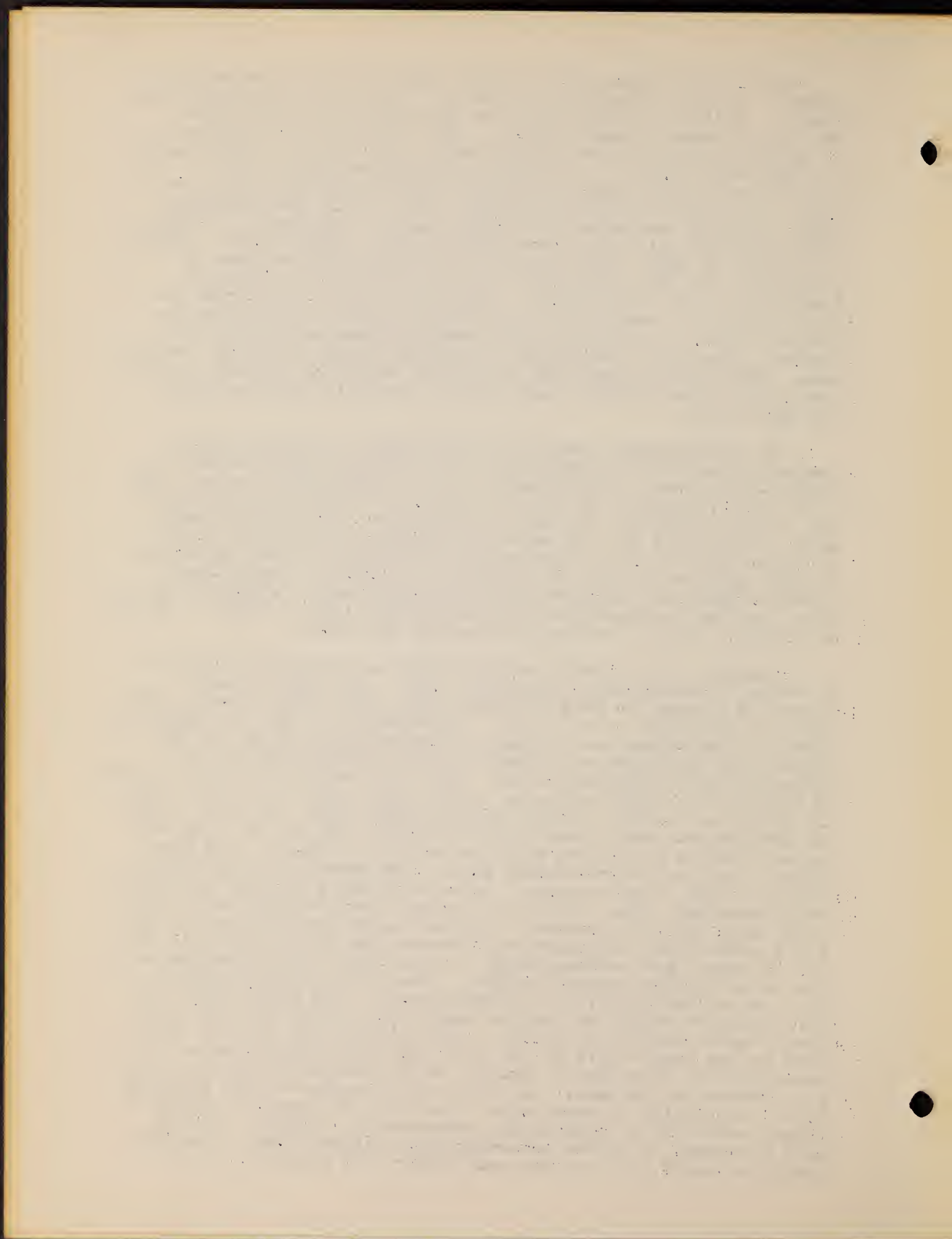
The old map of the Castleton Mill owned by S. L. Turdy and developed in the early 1870's had been the key to our start in Canada. Marjorie Rutherford had written that the map was an authentic replica of the old mill and mill pond where she had gone bathing and she knew it was owned by Turdy for many years. Castleton was only four or five miles northwest of the Rutherford farm. There was anticipation as we drove up to the old home. My mother's letters had told about her brother Sam and her visiting there many times. The letters mentioned the room where she slept deep in the warmth of a feather bed. The letters talked about the oldest son Lou and the second son, Walter, before she came to Iowa to get married in 1881. Will was born in 1882, Anna, a sister, also came later, I am pretty sure. I asked permission to go inside and went up to that old room. It didn't look like much now but mother had there and dreamed no doubt of love and happiness and a family of her own some day, and here I was. Sort of childish I guess. I didn't say much.



The family living on the place had owned it for some 15 years. It was pretty badly run down. They said they owned other places. Mother's letters spoke of Sam and his history books and how he loved to read history. She said that Sam promised to give her music lessons if she would come and stay with him and his wife Mary Eliza. He thought she was working too hard helping her mother care for brother Ridley's children at Gordon's Mill. He thought she was foolish to quit a good job teaching school just to take care of Ridley's kids. "But Sam," she said "Anna (Ridley's wife) is dying and she will soon be gone. Mother is too old to help. They cannot turn those children over to strangers. It would kill poor Anna (his wife). It won't be forever Sam" and so on and on. Later on brother Sam became so tied up with his saw mills here and there that family life was almost forgotten. He was making money and was an influential citizen. His wife Mary Eliza, I was told always lived at the old home. Sam with his sons Lou and Walter became interested in other saw mills in the vicinity and later at Coe Hill where he lived for many years.

We took pictures, many of which I have in colored slides. The mill pond is still beautiful. The old home could be made a comfortable place. The old mill is in disuse and the creek runs by silently, ignorant of its past history. After Sam, the place was taken over by his son Will and bride who was Maud Gaffield. Here, Cousin Will and his wife Maud raised their lovely family of girls and two sons. Cousin Maud's husband Will was born here in 1882 and died in 1919 at the age of 37 years. Their family included Beatrice, Marjorie, Marion, Donald and Sam Purdy. We were thrilled to learn that Cousin Maud was still living as Claude of Kingston said. But this is ahead of our story.

Someway this old mill and its story as little as I knew of it struck a particularly sensitive spot. "It takes a heap of living in a place to make it home," said poet, Edgar Guest. Well this old place had a lot of it. The start of it all was about the time when my mother was a young unmarried woman and it was all romance and adventure about her big older brother Sam and his bride Mary Eliza (Palmer) Purdy. And her brother Sam was a mountain of comfort to a girl without a father since she was 10 years old. And that her brother was fond of his sister Emma was very evident. He promised her music lessons if she would stay at his home and to send her on to college which he helped do anyway. And Mary Eliza liked her sister-in-law, Emma. Sam loved his books about history in the long evenings. He studied and read much during his early marriage. The little ones around them were Lou and Walter. Later Anna and Will arrived. At time passed Sam developed into a big north woods lumberman with several saw mills and a big lay-out of teams, men and machinery. It was said of him that he made the north country around Coe Hill. The town near his largest mill was called Purdyville for many years. But Mary Eliza, his wife remained mostly at the old home with her son Will and his family until her death in 1911. Sam and his boys Lou and Walter went to the newer mills at Coe Hill and did a large business in lumbering for those days. Sam did a lot toward helping his sons get started in business. He made lots of money and was generous to all his family in many ways. The story of Samuel L. Purdy by itself would be one of remarkable success in a pioneer country amid all sorts of almost unsurmountable difficulties. Time and again he staked his sons Lou and Walter to a new start in the



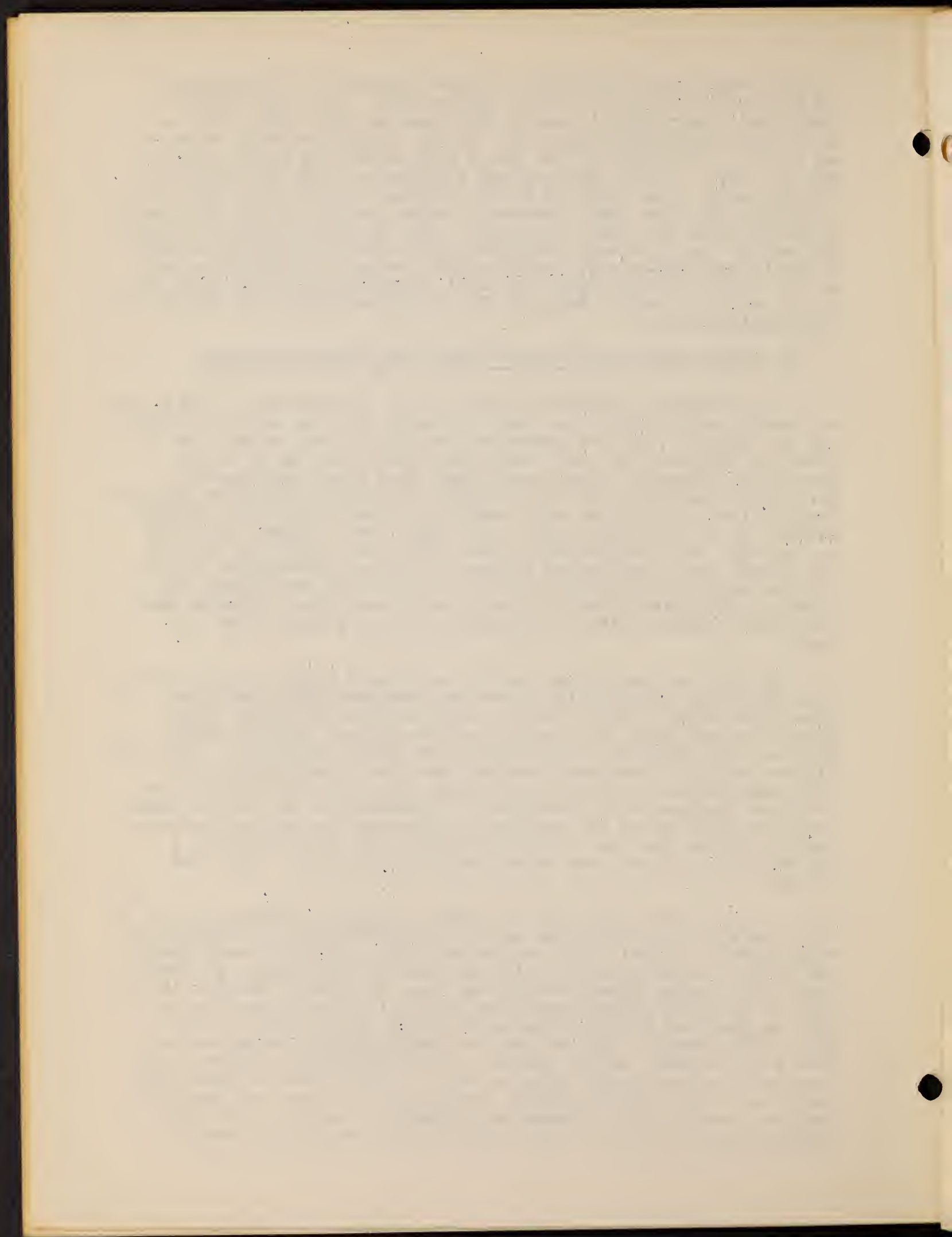
in the lumber and grist mill or other business. He played all of his business on a big scale and won big. They said that Sam Purdy's word was as good as gold and he paid every bill in a way that his credit was good. In the brief time that we were up in the "North Country" we heard much about Sam Purdy and it was all good. We got much of our information from old timers in the vicinity. Sam lived to be 88. He was born in 1842 and died in 1930. The time came, however, toward the end of his days, when he depended on his family entirely. His grandson Claude V. Purdy, the son of Lou, was very complimentary about his grandfather Sam. He said that things were really rough for Lou, my father and all of us during the depression and what grandfather Sam had done for us all really helped. Much of this I learned after our trip to the old Castleton Mill.

We Locate Cousin Maud Purdy Nearby The Rutherford Farm

Mrs. Marjorie Rutherford was with us at Castleton. She helped us locate several who knew "Sam" and many who knew of the son Will and his family. We were surprised to find so many people who had lived in the vicinity all their lives and lived on or could locate the farms of their parents and even great grandparents. Everybody seemed related to everybody else or knew someone who was. The Castleton Purdys she said were not related to all the Purdys around but if there are any we will find them. Claude had told us that his Uncle Will's wife, Aunt Maud, was alive the last he had heard, but lived around Toronto. Marjorie Rutherford began calling up friends and in a day or two we found our second big thrill. Maud Purdy, the wife of a real Purdy cousin, Sam's son, Will, was visiting with her daughter a stone's throw down the road.

We lost no time going down to see Cousin Maud, who, we knew from Claude of Kingston had lived at Castleton Mill for years. It wasn't too easy to break the ice when we first arrived. Mrs. Rutherford had told the daughter of Cousin Maud named Marjorie that we were from California looking up Purdy relatives. Well that did not register very much because the whole country is filled with such people. Anyway all of them were just starting out on a dinner engagement in Castleton. I remarked to one of the young women who came up to the car that Will Purdy was my first cousin and his father Sam was a favorite brother of my mother that I was trying to locate some of my mother's relatives. That was enough.

We soon made a date for a meeting during the following day or two, and what a lot of real up to date information we received at that meeting. Surely fate was on our side. Such a lovely family and such a lovely person was Cousin Maud of Castleton. It developed that she was almost exactly my age, 77 years. She had lived most of her life around Castleton but of late years was living with or near her daughter Marjorie Dudley at 255 A Lake Shore Road, Port Credit. She was here because Marjorie's daughter had just been married and was living in the old Dudley home of her husband's parents right where we were. We met the newlyweds and saw some of the lovely wedding presents and likewise met the older Dudleys, probably the parents of Marjorie's husband. The old family home was one of those ageless brick houses of Canada.



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While at Dudley's we met two of the three daughters and their husbands. Marjorie Alice and her husband Mr. Dudley; Beatrice Elizabeth and her husband Dr. Carl Elmer Purdy. Both Marjorie and her husband are teaching out near Toronto. Beatrice married another Purdy the son of Will in Toronto. Colonel Carl Purdy is a dentist in the Canadian Air Force. He is in charge of the Dentistry College in the Air Force. They are located at Camp Borden near Toronto, Ontario.

Will Musgrave Purdy, the father of Carl, was the son of Ridley Purdy. Ridley was the grandfather of Carl and Sam was the grandfather of Bernice. Sam and Ridley were brothers.

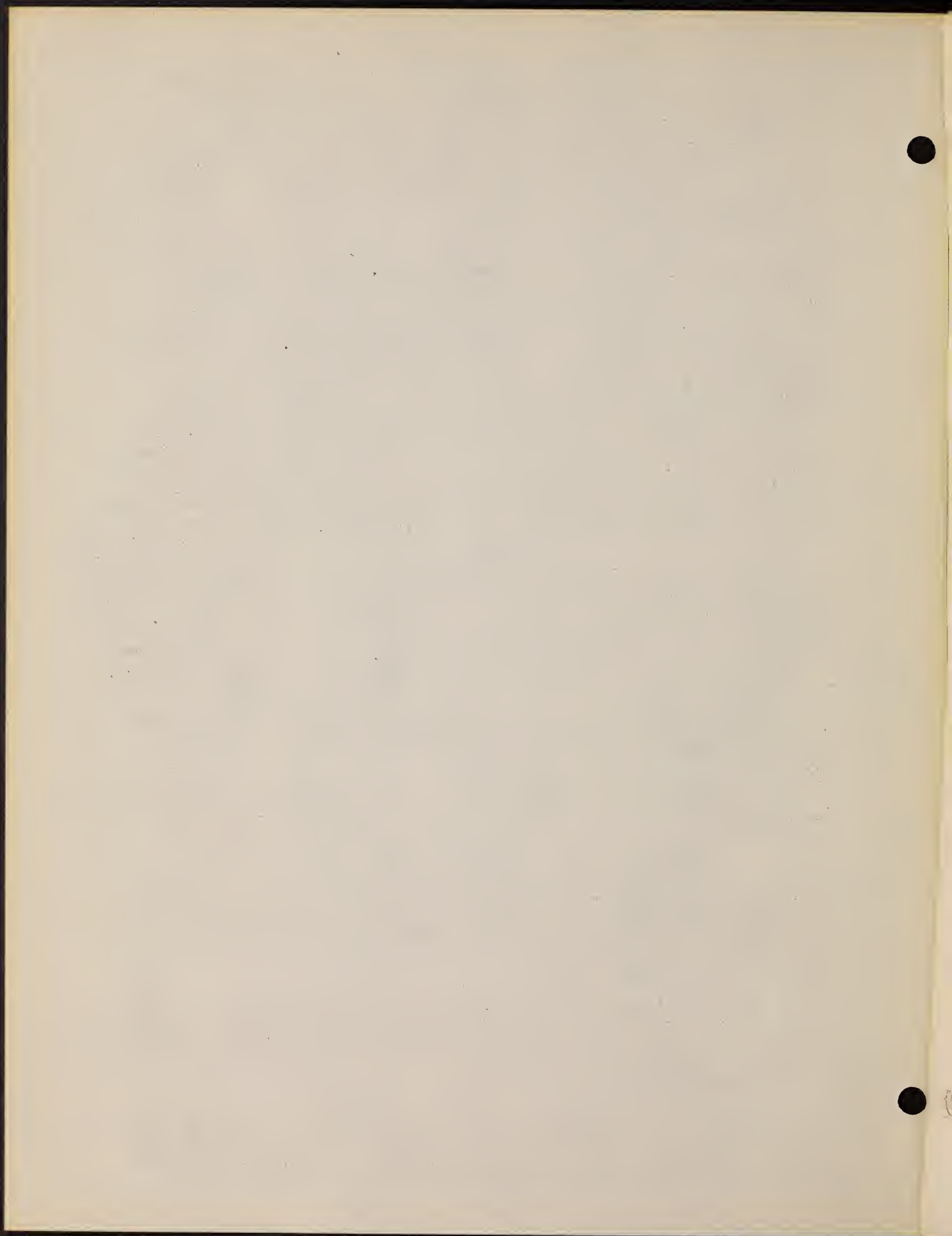
Now back to my first cousin Will Purdy's family of Castleton. Will was born in 1882 so my mother who left for Iowa in February, 1881 never knew him personally or any Purdys born after that date. His wife Maud Gaffied was born in Castleton. Her father was Nathan Gaffied. There is a son, Samuel L. Purdy of 7022 Saybrook Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, working for the Tidewater Grain Co. There was also the eldest daughter named Marion now dead. Marion's husband is named Max Harnden. Marion's oldest son lives at Bendmore, Ontario, north of Winnipeg. He runs a large store there. Max Harnden is married again. Another son of Will's named Donald Purdy is a teacher near by in Toronto. His address was given us as 79 Chestnut Hill Parkway, West Toronto.

While our visit with the two daughters and their husbands was brief we were very much pleased to realize that the old family heritage of Purdy was complimented by having such descendants. We later received a picture of the three girls while still young children with their mother Maud and father Will from Ione Oakes another cousin. This picture was a lovely one. Cousin Maud had a great deal of responsibility in raising and educating her family after her husband Will died. It would appear that the oldest child was still in her teens at that time. I was told that all received a good education. My question is Cousin Maud, how did you do it? That old Castleton home surely saw a "heap of living".

We visited Cousin Maud several times. After the girls left she remained there for a time. We talked about old family history. We learned a lot about the various members of the Purdy-Fretz family of my mother and uncles. I could not expect to learn much about the families of the younger Purdys. To go as far as the generation comparable to that of my own children was surely a framework on which others could build if they chose. If I could prove that the name Purdy carried a proud heritage all along the various lines of decent and had a proud beginning; that was enough. Every day I was learning more about the Purdys that made me real proud to have that heritage.

Along with Cousin Maud was an elderly person of like age, Mrs. Harriet Bowditch. It seemed that she had lived with Maud for many years. She knew much about the Purdys. It seemed perhaps that she was an adopted daughter of Mary Eliza. She lives near Cousin Maud in Toronto.

My questions naturally lead to my mother Emma. They had heard of her and her tragic end. She seemed to be one of those young characters just too idealistic and lovely to live long in this world. From everyone who had heard of her Emma had grown



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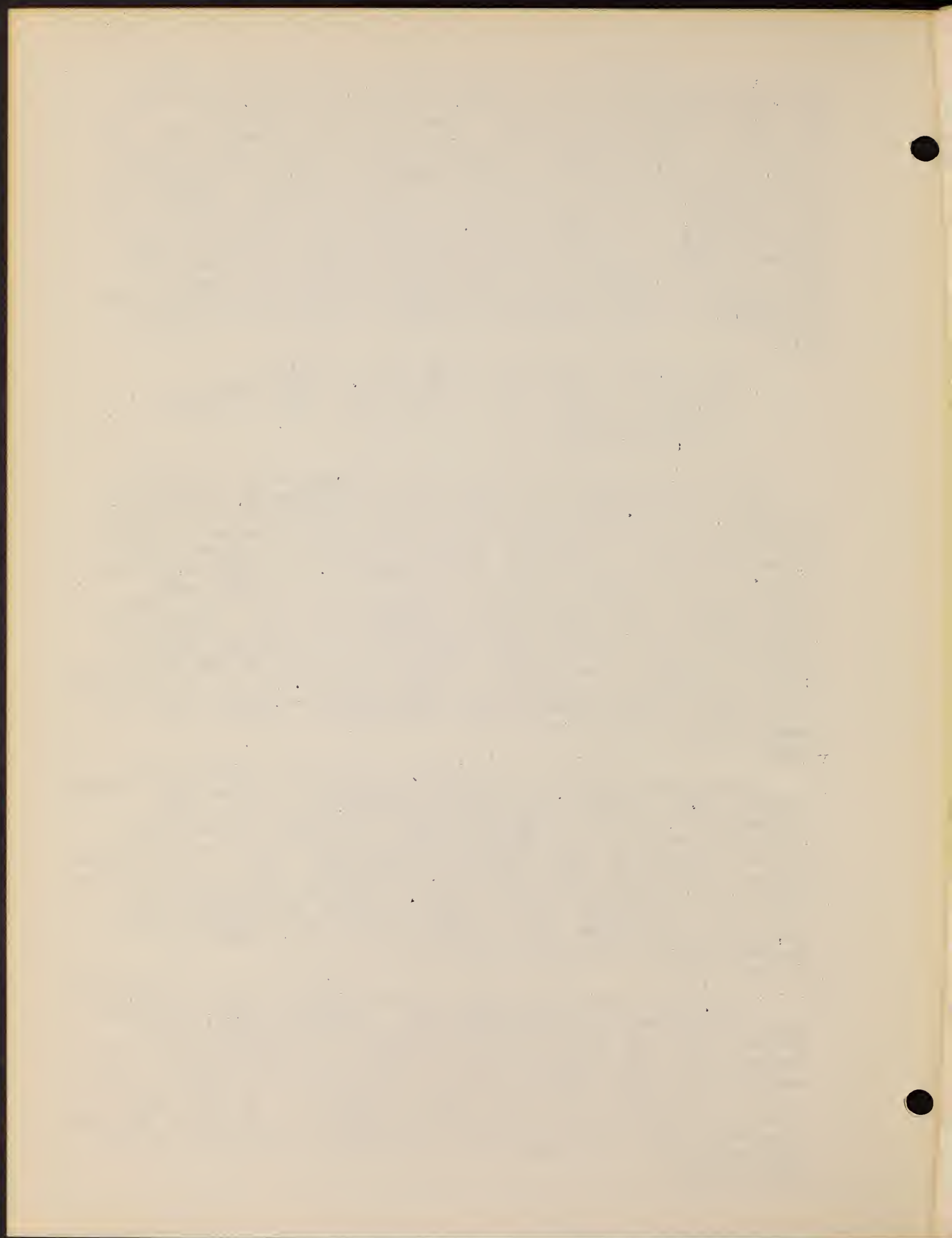
into a kind of tradition to those who lived to carry on. Both among my fathers people and among the Purdys of Canada, my mother was a very unusual young woman. She was deeply religious. I am inclined to think that she had a premonition of a short life. She turned down opportunities to marry a number of the most eligible young men presented to her by her successful brothers and sisters of considerable social position. She had a spirit of romance and adventure of a high order. She could write and think and be clever enough in her letters to be quite unusual. She had a good education for those days. Yet she was a quiet, almost lonesome type until she came to this western romance with my father whose chief stock in trade was a lovely "deep baritone voice and an enthusiasm for life in the west" almost beyond human endurance for anyone else. I always think of him along with that World War I song

"With someone like you, a pal good and true,
I'd like to leave it all behind and go and find,
Some place that's known to God alone, just a spot to
call our own
And let the rest of the world go by."

These statements were born out by Grandma Purdy who after mother's death returned from that "out west" where she lived with her daughter Emma for four or five years. Grandmother idealized my father because he and Emma were so deeply in love and all hardships became only a challenge to more affection. Grandma Purdy brought all the story back to Canada with her and until her death at 89 in 1902, fifteen years later she told it over and over. Grandmother's only other daughter, Maturia, my mother's and Sam's sister who married a James Vrooman lived until 1922. Maturia was a grand old lady in her later years and was a charming person to all who knew her. She likewise carried the story of her sister Emma to the younger generation of Haud and through her own daughter Mary Lillian to her granddaughter Ione Oakes. At least there still was a memory of Emma Purdy that carried on for sometime after her death.

Cousin Haud and Harriet Bowditch both told me that Maturia Vrooman often visited her. Harriet remembered that Sam had attended his mother's funeral in Smithfield and Brighton. They both remembered hearing that Sam had helped his mother, along with Ridley, look after the old home at Smithfield. That was where my mother was born in 1853. She was the youngest child. Maturia was married about the time she was born. Emma was more like a daughter to all the old family than a sister. She and the grandmother visited or lived from time to time with all the family of seven brothers and two sisters. Grandfather Purdy died when Emma was 10 years old.

We learned from Cousin Haud certain things about the relationship between the three brothers, Lou, Walter and Will with their father Samuel and what he did for them. We heard that their mother Mary Eliza Palmer Purdy was a sister of Sarah Palmer who married Ralph Purdy another one of Emma and Sam's brothers. I was told by Arthur Rutherford that he had taken his grain to Will Purdy's grist mill to be ground many years ago. He especially remembered that Will had taken time to show him all around the mill and explain it to him and he was impressed by his generosity and friendliness.

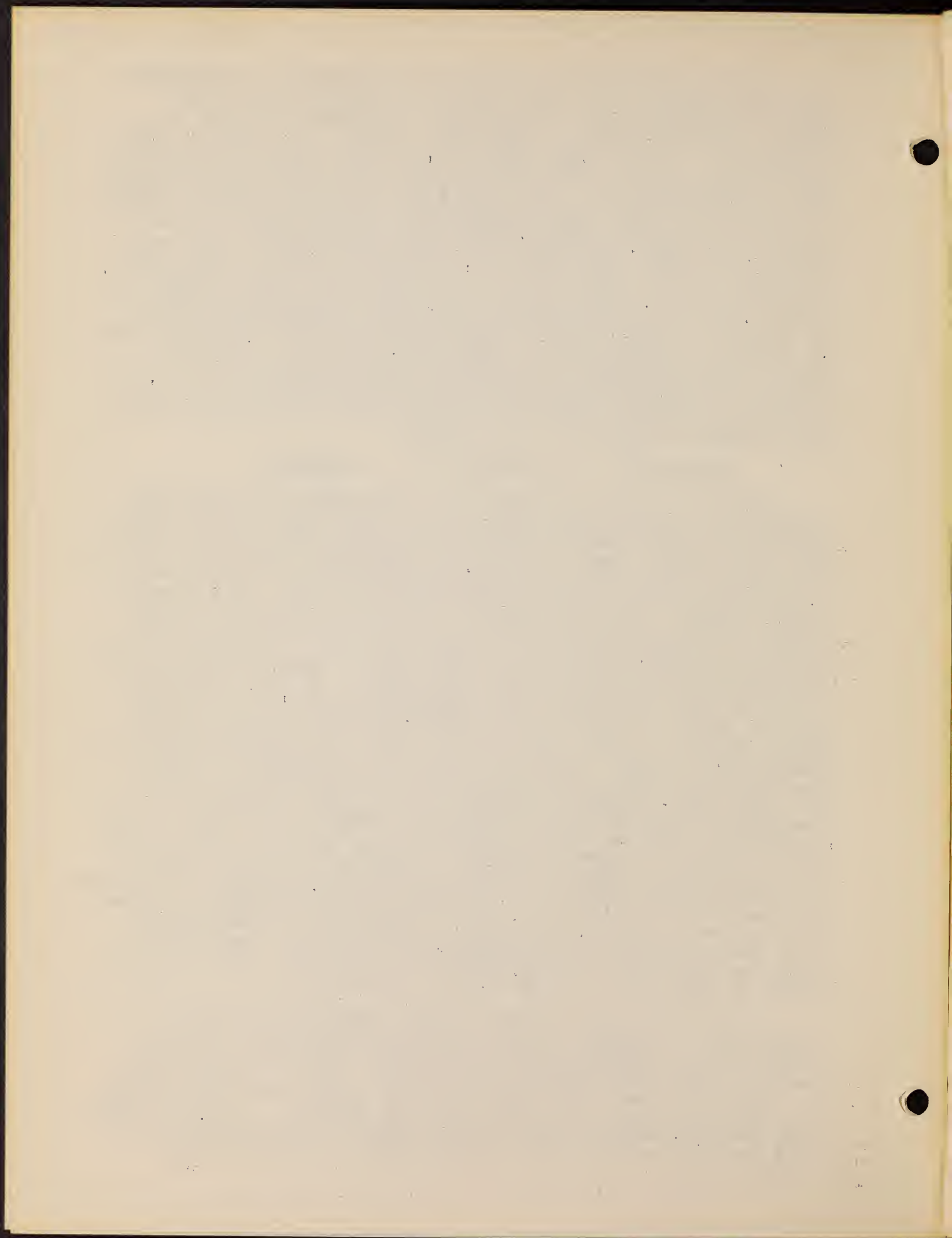


After our acquaintance with Cousin Maud Purdy, the Castleton Mill and Claude V. Purdy of Kingston, we began to feel quite elated with our success. Cousin Maud's daughters Marjorie and Beatrice and the husband of Beatrice, Colonel Carl Purdy all told us about the Will M. Purdy family of Toronto. Who was Will Purdy of Toronto? We were perfectly ignorant of any connection at first. Then it developed that Will M. was a son of Ridley, another brother of my mother. Then, I began to remember things in mother's letters. My mother had written about Ridley's four children and one was named Will. Could it be he? Sure enough it was about Will and Ridley, his father, that mother's stories from Gordon's Mill were all about. What a find and what good fortune. Will M. would be a first cousin and still living at age 88. That meant Toronto for us. We were also told by Cousin Maud that a certain Ione Oakes, an unmarried school teacher, lately retired lived in Toronto. She was another wonderful find because she could tell us about the family of James Vrooman who married Haturia Purdy, the only sister of Emma and about Ione's mother, Mary Lillian (Millie) who was a daughter of Haturia. Another reason for Toronto was because Ione had brothers and sisters to hear about.

Purdyville --- Coe Hill --- Sam Purdy

Bright and early one morning the Rutherfords and ourselves started for Coe Hill and Purdyville. We had heard too much about Sam Purdy and his lumber business at Coe Hill, and about his sons Lou and Walter up there with him, to leave out such a trip. Claude of Kingston told us that we might find a pile of sawdust where their old mill was but little worth a trip to see. Sure enough we found that old pile of sawdust and some old buildings. I took a picture of the old concrete base where the engine stood. Those things were monuments to me. I could see in my mind's eye all that was going on there seventy-five years ago. I asked an old fellow standing around there if he knew Sam Purdy. His eyes brightened up and he told me stories that showed me he had a lot of respect for Sam Purdy. "You see that 20 acre pasture there across the road", said he. "Well, Sam Purdy had the whole business piled with lumber many a time. I have seen him with ten wagons and thirty men load out a whole freight train full of that lumber, hauling it up to Coe Hill to load. We looked up a man who was said to be Sam's chief mechanic and saw filer. We waited a half hour for him to finish a rush job he was working on in his shop. Then he came out to talk to us about Sam Purdy. I asked if he knew Sam Purdy. "Yes" he said. "I knew Sam Purdy." I told him that I was writing up a story about Sam Purdy. "Sam Purdy" he said "always did exactly what he said he would do. He would strike a hard bargain sometimes but his word was absolutely good. He kept good men working for him, paid them well and expected them to earn it. Sam Purdy he said was respected over this entire community and helped a lot of folks on their feet. He had no time for anything but business."

We took pictures of old buildings that Sam had built at Purdyville. A general store building had been headquarters and eating place. There was a big storehouse for winter supplies, and a big barn that looked pretty shaky. A fellow nearby showed us where Sam lived. Up on the hill were homes where his sons Lou and Walter had lived with their families at times. Along the road some 10 miles south an old gentleman told us about another sawmill that Sam owned and was still running called the Murphy Mill.



Old Letters and Old Homes
From Trenton to Toronto

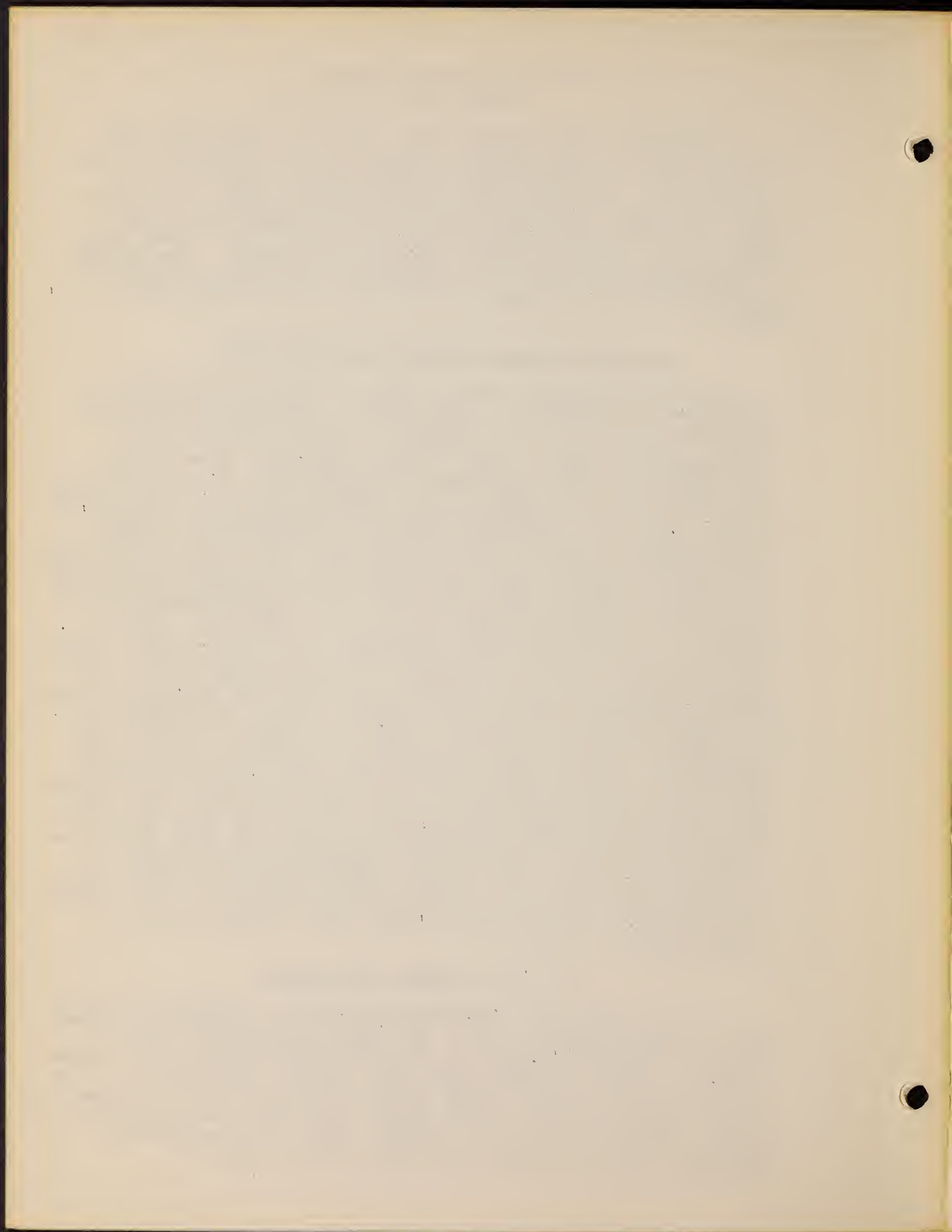
Finding old homes and old farms and tracing relatives who are found mostly in the cemeteries or traced by land purchases, census reports, church records of marriages and baptisms, is not an easy task. Old books, legal notices, death notices or obituaries all help. The time is between 1800 and 1961. The chief idea is to locate my mother's home and her father and mother's family of 11 children from the marriage of her father John Purdy to Anna Fretz. Then to follow the various branches. The setting is from Kingston to Toronto. Strangely it is easier to get information about those of long ago than about those of more recent years.

Emma Purdy Teaches School at Presque Isle

My mother Emma had been sent away to school in the early 1870's and was prepared to teach school. Her letters tell about the little school house at Presque Isle near Brighton where she taught. Presque Isle was a romantic place even in the 1870's long before it became a park. People came there to relax in their camping outfits for picnics or gatherings. It is really a peninsula jutting out into the lake several miles with much natural beauty. There is a lighthouse now out at the point. As we saw it in 1961 there was a hotel and hundreds of campers and cottages. The Rutherfords knew of a small school house and took us to it. It was vacant and the windows were boarded up. We could not get inside but we took pictures. It was a little one room school house along since just a memory of forgotten days. We stopped at the hotel to inquire if this little school house was the only one. The old gentleman who owned the hotel had been at it for over fifty years. Yes sir, he said that is the only school house that we ever had here and it is over a hundred years old. It was 85 years back to my mother's teaching there in 1876 so she was one of the first teachers. We drove back by the little old building again. My mother to be was perhaps 23 years old then. Her letters said it was the only money she ever earned for herself and how wonderful it was to be independent. But she felt it her duty to her mother and brother Ridley to help them with Ridley's children since their mother Anna was so very ill. Family ties seemed so much stronger those days. There were few hospitals and doctors or nurses to turn to. My mother was a very sincere and conscientious young woman in spite of a host of admirers. Her mother, grandmother Annie Purdy, was her special care from her father's death in 1863 until her own death in 1887. And both of them were the special care of a number of brothers and sisters thereabouts with whom they visited or lived from time to time.

The Lew A. Purdys of Brighton

We have many old letters with a Brighton or Smithfield postmark in the late 1870's. But how could we expect to find anybody who ever heard of our Purdys. We felt rather foolish even to inquire. The day Claude Purdy took us around on our first arrival we went up a hill and he pointed out a large brick house. "I was told," he said, "that a Purdy owned that house or one by it one time, and that he was related to us". But my mother's letters spoke warmly of her brother Lew A. Purdy, a well to do merchant of Brighton. She had spent much time visiting there.



The Ruth rford's were with us. They knew of a J. H. Fries who had been a merchant in Brighton for a long time. We looked him up, a man in his 80's perhaps. He said he had known a merchant there many years ago named Lew Purdy. Mr. Fries's son spoke of a book with information about Purdys in it. The book was our first introduction to "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte". The son's name was Roger D. Fries. What the book said about the early Purdys had no apparent connection with our Purdys as yet. That came much later.

The old Mr. Fries located the old Purdy store for us. It was vacant and not inviting. The druggist next door said that his father was an old settler and would be in soon. So we came back and this gentleman said he knew Lew Purdy over 60 years ago. We were told of an old retired gentleman named A.C. Corby who made grave stones many years ago. "Yes", he said "I knew Lew Purdy and his sons. He had a daughter, a milliner who had a millinary store there for a number of years and I took care of her funeral up in the family plot in the cemetery. Lew Purdy put up a fine large Scotch ironite stone for a daughter Ida who died in 1870. The plot has an expensive iron fence around it and the graves of the whole family. Lew had a couple of sons. Their father did plenty for them but one of them gave him a bad time." We were not looking for family skeletons so that ended the conversation. We were learning things about the old family pretty fast, all good, except about that son. If you want the bad as well as the good about any family just talk to the old timers of 50 years ago. I remembered a bit, I had laborously translated from the Latin of Julius Caesar when a boy. "The evil that me do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones."

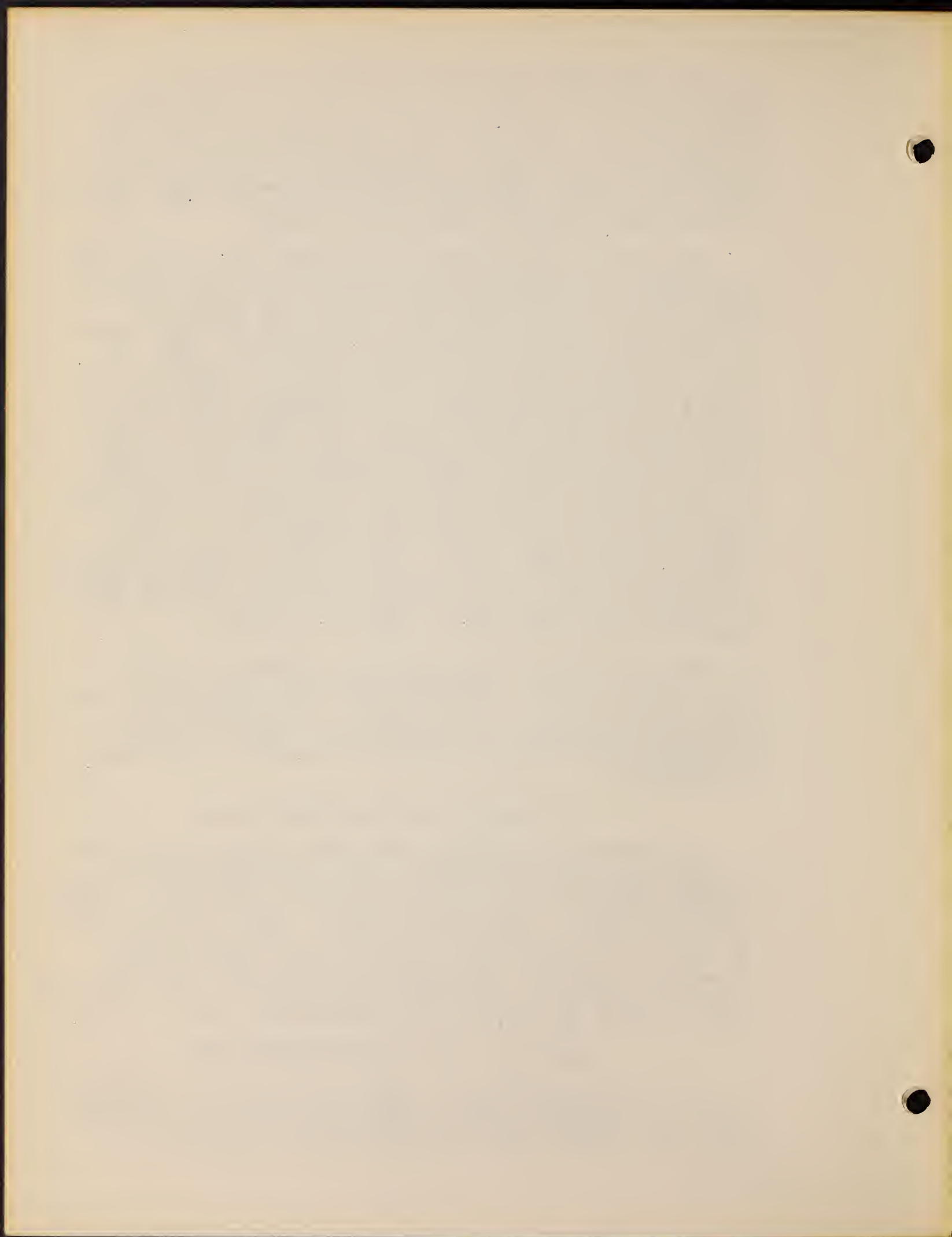
Mr. Corby told us that there was a family named Oakes, that lived in Brighton after the Purdys were gone and they were related to them. Claude Purdy had previously told us that they were related to them, in some way. We learned that a gentleman named Nesbitt now owned the big home on the hill. We returned to Calborne that night feeling that a real start had been made.

The Story of the Old Brick Mansion

We returned to Brighton. With some misgivings as to how we would be received we knocked at the big heavy front door. A large older gentleman answered and we told him about our trip from California to learn about the Purdys of Brighton. I told him that a Lewis A. Purdy was my uncle. "Well, come right in," he told us. He said that he knew Lewis A. Purdy years ago. He said the old brick house was made to last forever and he showed us around it. Those heavy doors and thick interior partitions and heavily ornamented stairway were truly a sign that Lewis A. Purdy was a well to do citizen at one time.

The Burial Place at Mt. Hope Cemetery

It is pretty difficult to trace the history of a family when all are dead and even the births and deaths and marriages have to be gathered tediously from sources of many years ago. One of the saddest things about life is the memory of a



successful happy family all gone without a soul left to carry on. My mother said that the Lewis A. Purdys were such a family. "Lew, my brother" she said, "is worth at least \$70,000 and his wife Mary Louisa is a happy, lovely person who is very kind to mother and me when we visit there."

We were told that the big Scotch granite stone was one of the largest ones up there. The rough iron fence around the plot was ornate. Carved on the big stone were the names of all the family and dates of births and deaths except of Maud who died last and the son who we could not locate. We learned that Lewis Allen Purdy was born in 1834 and died in 1911 and that his wife Mary Louisa (Rose) Purdy's dates were 1839 to 1918. Tragedy in the family came first when Ida Rose May Purdy, daughter born in 1862 died July 31, 1876 at age 14 years. At this death the large stone was put up on which later were inscribed other names. My mother spoke of going up to this grave in 1878 and the terrible feeling of sadness that Mary had. At this time my mother to be was 25 years old and Mary Louisa was 37. Tragedy struck again when their son Francis J. S. died. He was born March 28, 1864 and died May 2, 1883 at the age of 19 years.

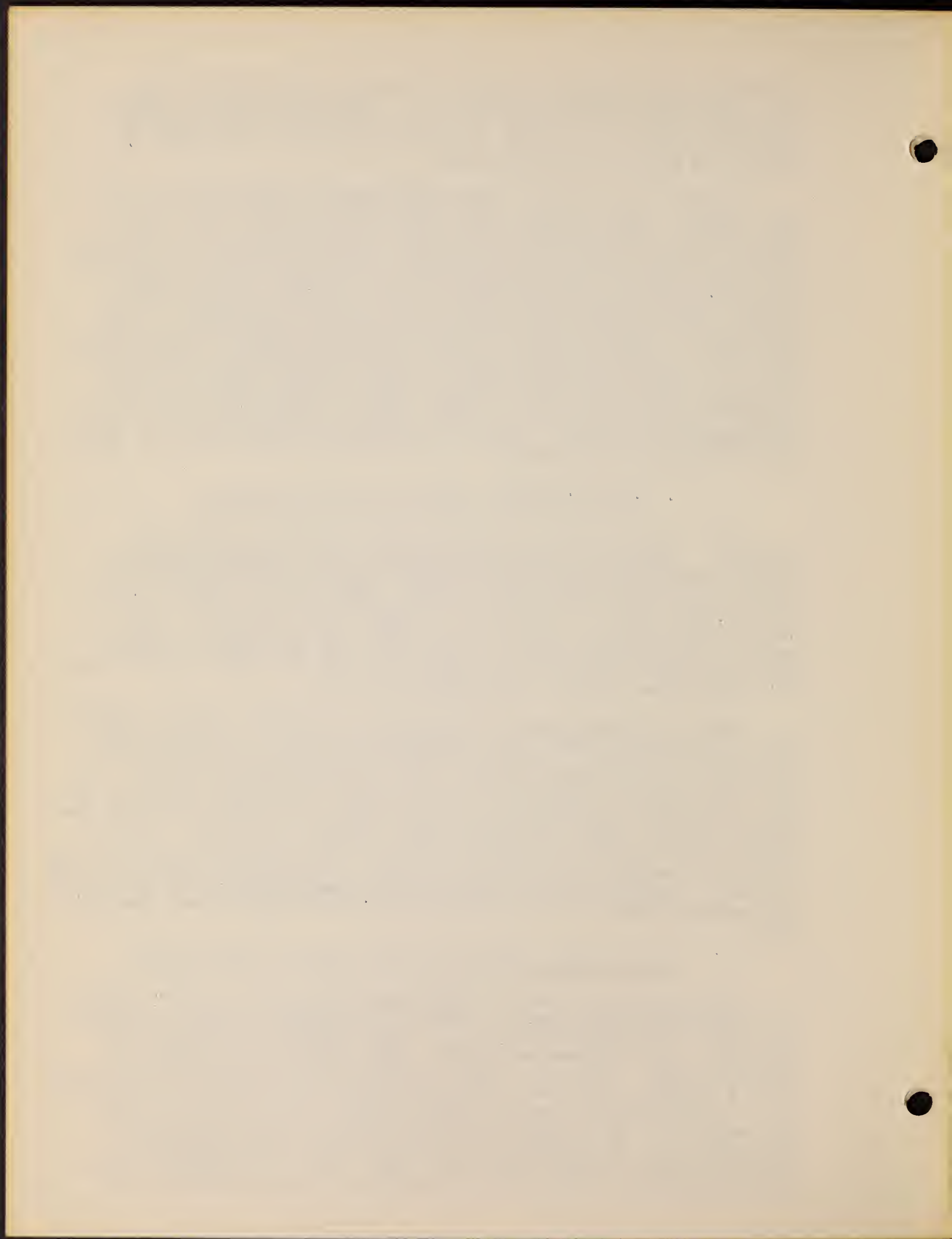
Our Grandmother Purdy Buried in Brighton

On a little stone in the corner of the plot is the name "Mother". Later we searched many grave yards around Brighton, Trenton and Smithfield to locate the graves of grandfather John Purdy and his wife Anna Fretz Purdy. Some way it seemed to us an essential part to the end of a family and there story, to find their burial place. It is too bad that usually there is such a terrible neglect everywhere of perpetuating the memory of those who were responsible for our very lives. It is such a little thing to do for them. Just a simple cement plaque.

When we finally visited Will Purdy of Toronto, Ridley Purdy's son, we got the answer about Grandmother Purdy. We learned that she died at Ridley's place near Glen Miller north of Trenton in 1902 and that Lew Purdy took her body to Brighton for burial. So the stone marked "Mother" is for the grave of Grandmother Purdy to all we cousins and mother to all the Purdys like Lewis, Ridley, Sam, Emma, Charles, David, Maturia, Ralph, Phillip and Mary. We the children of these are the first cousins. Only the six remain. We have not been able to locate the grave of grandfather Purdy who died in 1863. Probably he was buried in the cemetery north of Smithfield and several miles east of the old Smithfield family farm where he died.

Cousin Maud and Cousin Harry Carry on Many Years

Years after Lew and his wife Mary Louisa pass on their children Maud and Harry live on. Maud, the milliner, moves to Trenton and has a millinery store there. Harry becomes a character of mystery. No one knows about him. Maud, however, is loved and known by many. She has a special friend named Fanny Mallory who was, I believe, a partner interested in the millinery business with her. Miss Mallory is still living (1962). It is best to keep the story of a given family together so here I mention that in due time we go to Toronto where we locate a certain unmarried retired school teacher named Ione Oaks. Ione was located for us by the daughters, Marjorie and Bernice of Mrs. Maud Purdy, the



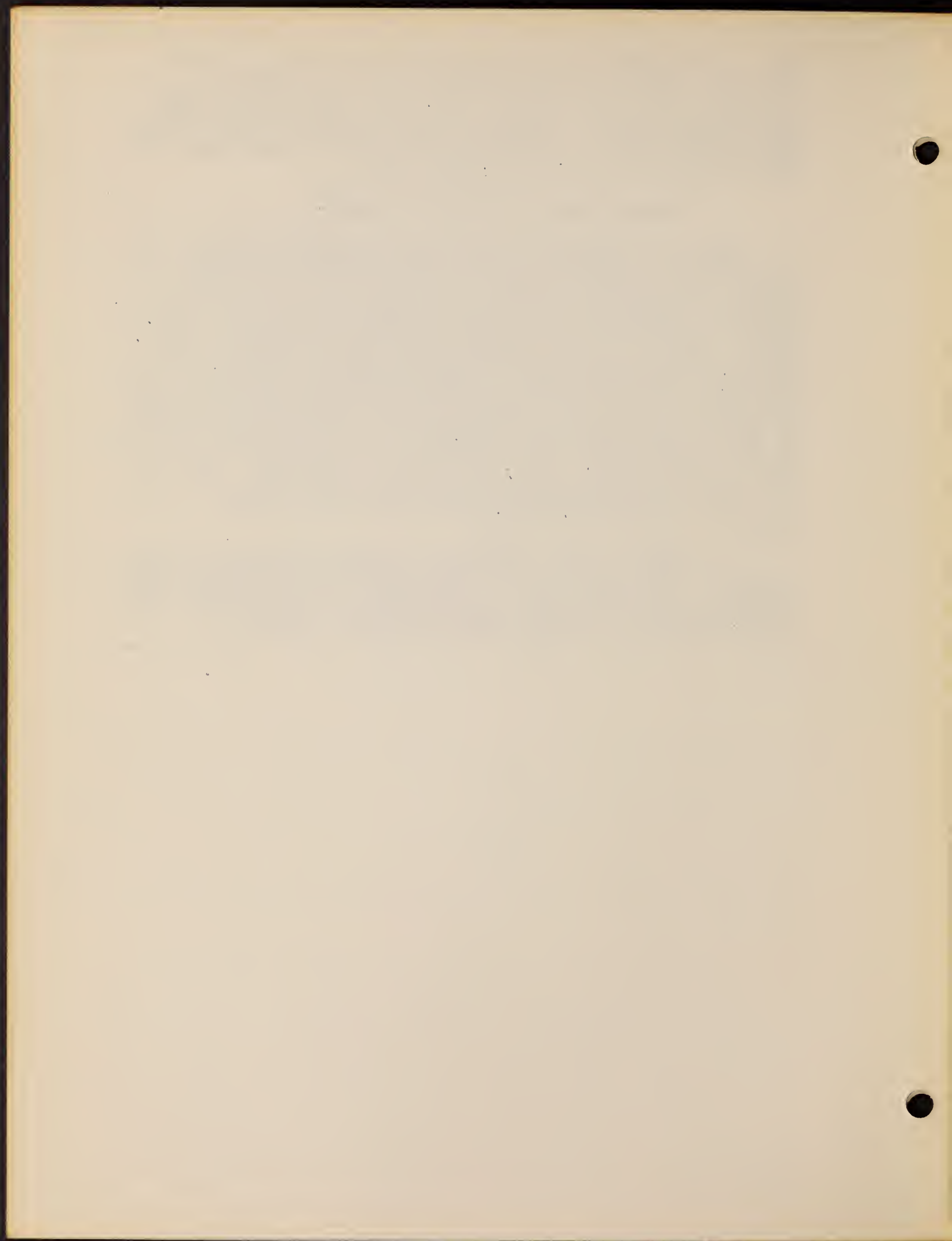
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wife of Will Purdy of Castleton. Miss Ione Oakes tells us about Miss Mallory and much about the Lev A. Purdys of Brighton. And Miss Mallory, after our letter to her refers us to a Mrs. Elva M. Hobbs, a relative of Lew Purdy's wife Mary Louisa Rose and likewise a granddaughter of Jacob Purdy, John Purdy's brother. We are really getting into things now. After this but we are ahead of the story.

"Pioneer Life on The Bay of Quinte"

Roger D. Fries, the son of the old pioneer merchant who was the first to tell us of the whereabouts of the Lewis A. Purdy's store showed us the above book on our first trip. It contained a good deal about the original Purdys of Canada. There was nothing in it to tie our family to it that we could find. However, we came back to Brighton to study it. Mr. Fries was gone but his charming wife took an interest in us and brought out the book. We copied several pages of material and became interested in Mrs. Fries herself who served us tea and said she was well acquainted with the Nesbitts who lived in the old uncle's home. We asked her about the Oakes family of whom Claude Purdy had mentioned. Oh yes, she had lived by them and knew them. Mrs. Oakes had been a teacher and was a nice musician and was well known in the community. And she was sure they were related in some way to the Purdys. So the mystery deepens at that time.

We began to wonder more and more about those old pioneer Purdys in the book and our Purdys. Could our Purdys be part of them? Who could tell? I remembered the 60 Purdys in that telephone book at Toronto and wondered how anyone could ever be so foolish as to keep working on such a problem.



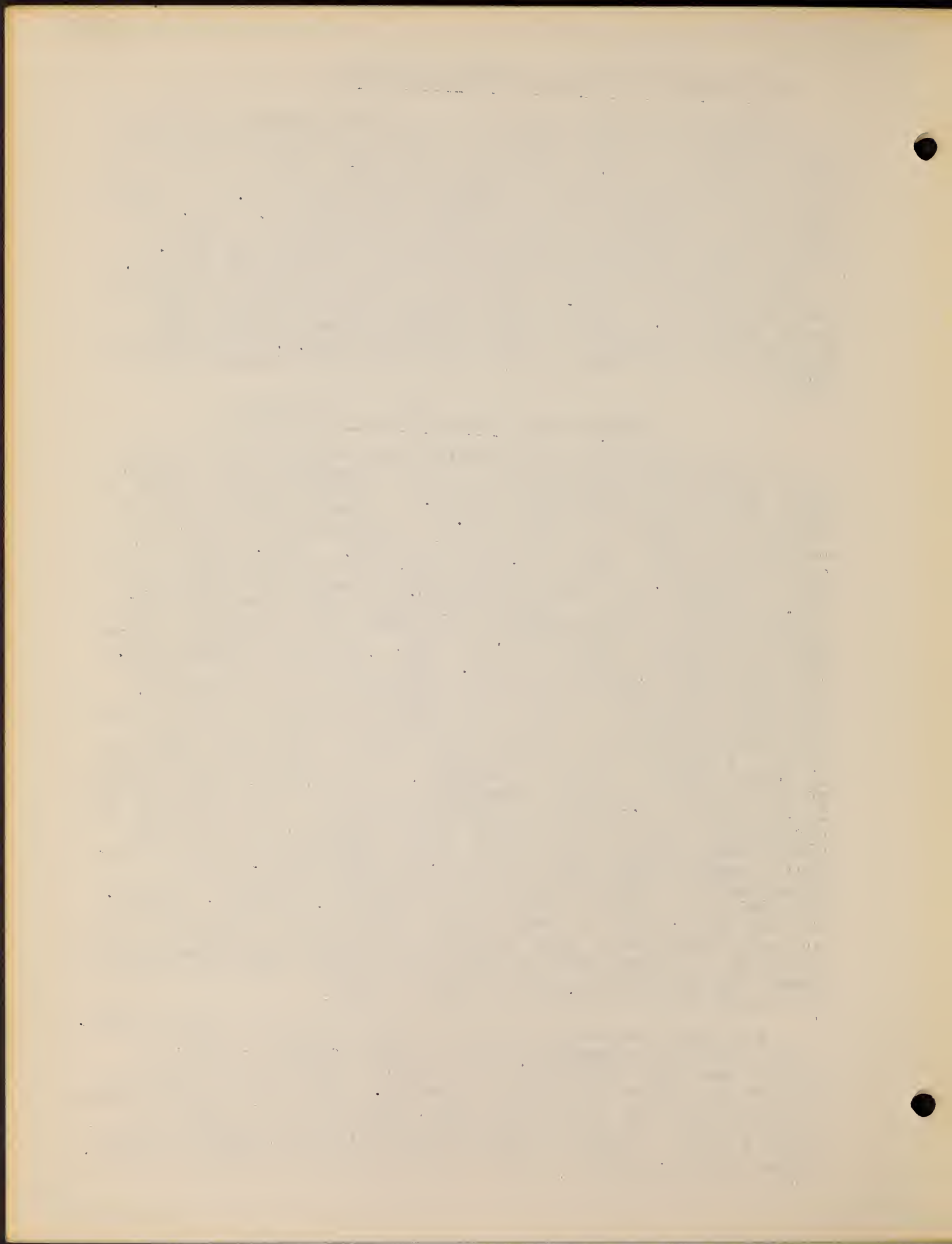
At Coe Hill We Hear of Another Purdy Mill

Stopping at Coe Hill on the way to Purdyville five miles west we were told of a Purdy who was now running a sawmill three miles west of there. We found our way to this mill. After taking a few pictures especially of the beautiful lake nearby as well as of the log sawing operations, we inquired about this Purdy. We were told that it belonged to Walter Purdy's son William W. Purdy. Of all the lucky surprises! We knew that Walter was Sam's son and was now dead. We knew absolutely nothing about his son Will W. We tried to locate Will Purdy but he was not at the mill that day. We were having a busy day. There were a lot of beautiful lakes on the way back home. We were surprised to find numbers of summer homes here and there along the way where scenery, boating and fishing were wonderful. We were told that many U.S. citizens found their way up there from New York State and owned ~~oriental~~ summer homes.

We Find Mrs. Walter Purdy at Petersburg

We had heard that Walter Purdy's wife was still living and might be located at Petersburg. We had come to Coe Hill via the Trent River and its beautiful scenery. We came back via Petersburg and Cobourg back to Colborne. The name of Walter Purdy was in the phone book at 551 Reed Street, Peterborough, Ontario, and we stopped at the home of Mrs. Eva Mae Purdy. Again, good luck, for she was home. It took a little time for me to explain who we were. I hardly knew what to say first. I mentioned that I was a first cousin of Walter, her husband; that we had come from California to find some relatives of my mother; that my mother was a sister of Samuel Purdy, Walter's father. I was told that I looked like your husband, Walter, I said. That was enough introduction. We visited for perhaps an hour and Cousin Eva Mae gave us some wonderful pictures of herself and Walter and her two daughters. We learned about her son Will who owned the sawmill we saw and who now lives at Bellville where he also owns and operates a stage line. We met Will and his wife and their two young sons later on at Harold Purdy's funeral in Kingston. His address in Bellville is 140 Burnham St., Later correspondence told us about her daughter Marion who was a teacher in Peterborough but who now is married to Clare Garton and who has been in the bus business. We have also lately become acquainted through direct correspondence with the other daughter Agnes Adele who married Victor Vokes. He is in the Department of Northern Affairs of the Canadian Government, a meteorologist. Their home is at 47 Bover St., Ottawa 1, Ontario. We were very pleased to hear directly from Agnes. She wrote such a lovely letter to us of appreciation around Christmas time. If we ever come to Canada again we would love to meet Agnes Vokes (nee Purdy) and her husband. Old family history needs the encouragement of younger people or much of it will be lost.

It would have been a wonderful thing to have met Walter Purdy. Walter was born February 2, 1877 and died October 2, 1958. My mother Emma knew Walter and Lou as small youngsters when she visited Sam and Mary Eliza at Castleton. Walter might have been three or four when she saw him last. Mother was at a big Christmas celebration of the entire John-Purdy-Fretz family at Sam's in 1878, I think. Walter, I was told knew his Uncle Ralph and family better than others did. Ralph and Sam married the Palmer sisters,



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Sarah and Mary Eliza. That made Ralph's children and Sam's double cousins.

Anna Purdy Only Daughter of Sam and Mary Eliza Purdy

By a little here and there as time has passed, I have learned about Anna Purdy, the only sister of Walter, Lou and Will, the children of Samuel and Mary Eliza Purdy. Her age I do not know. Lou and Walter were the oldest because my mother speaks of them. Anna Purdy married Dr. Frank Mather, M.D. Their home was a lovely one at Belleville. They never had any children but were wealthy and socially prominent. At her death it seems that Anna had some lovely jewelry which she distributed among the children of Samuel and Mary Eliza. One exceptionally beautiful diamond ring with a setting of three was divided into three single diamonds.

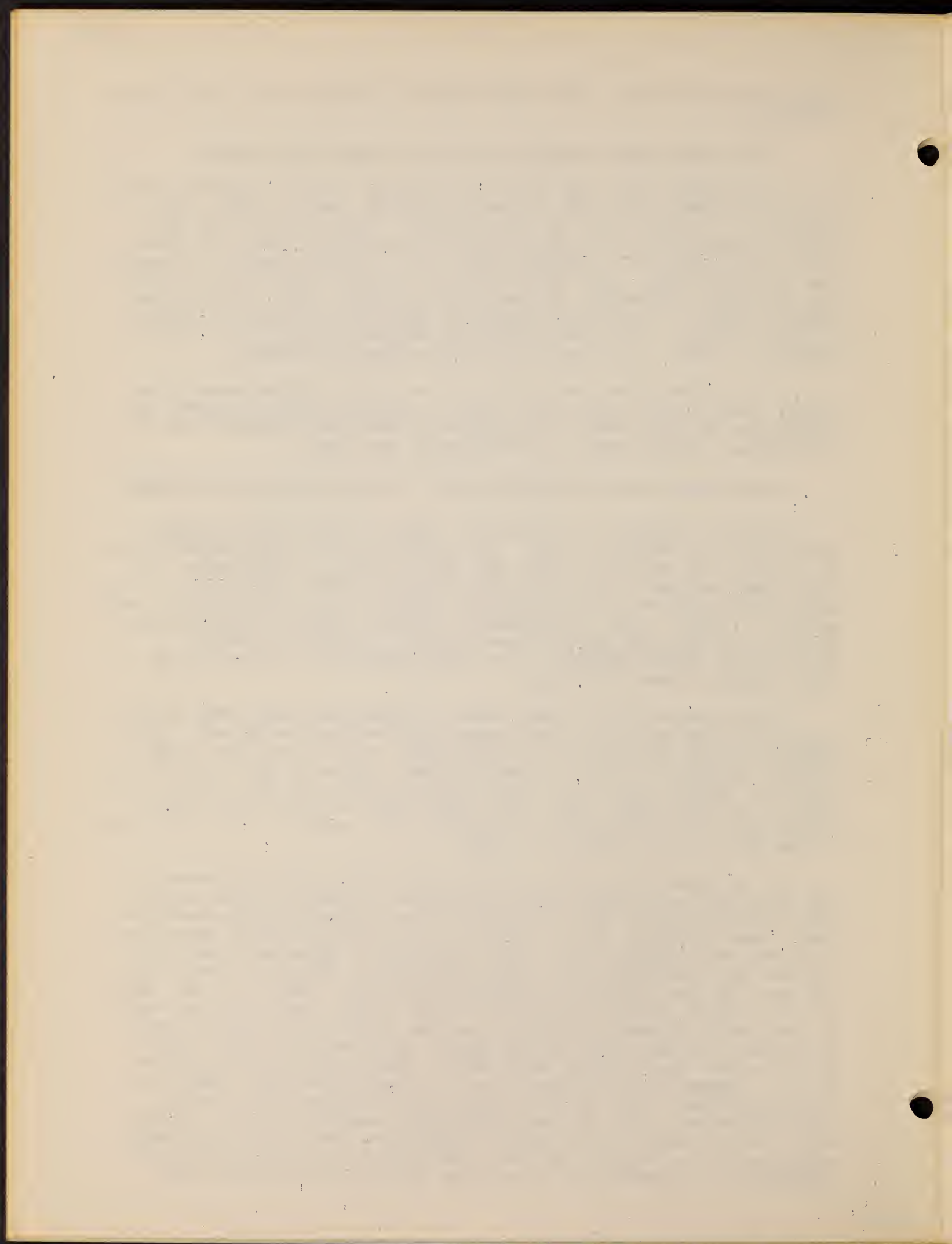
Mrs. Walter Purdy recently sent me an old letter about Anna Mather which might serve as a lead to anyone caring to search for the Mather family itself. The rumor is that the Mathers were an influential family around Belleville at one time.

Letter About Anna (Purdy) Mather (Kindness of Eva Mae Purdy)

This old letter was written to Walter Purdy from Flushing, Michigan on November 7, 1930. It speaks of Sam's recent death and of a card sent to Tweed where Sam was boarding at his death. It says that they hear that Mrs. Will Purdy is still living at Castleton; that Dr. Milton Mather is still living in Tweed and "my" younger brother lives in Vancouver. My two sisters are in Belleville. Mr. Reid and myself were married December 29, 1926. (apparently second marriage) Mrs. Reid probably a sister of Dr. Frank Mather, Anna's husband.

The letter mentions that Anna was bedridden after her stroke. Apparently she had passed away some time before the letter. The letter is very complimentary about "Sam" and how much Dr. Frank thought of him. Quoting of Sam "I always liked to see him come to visit us when Anna was with us; he was a good man, also your mother, we liked them both. Dr. Frank said he did think such a lot of Sam, and respected both him and your mother." The letter is signed Mr. and Mrs. George W. Reid.

It was told to me that Sam was put in this home at Tweed by his sons Lou and Walter some time before the date of this letter about Anna in 1930. Like so many of those grand old gentlemen of that time including my own father, those last days must have been lonesome and unhappy ones. They had earned, given away or lost fortunes in their time. To have to depend on others in their old age was the last thing they thought possible. But in the old days and even today that time comes. Ridley Purdy, Sam's brother was a grand old gentleman when you know the things he did for others. My mother knew much more about Ridley than Sam. His last days likewise had been pretty sad ones. Sam lived to be 83, Ridley to 90. Sister Haturia Vrooman to 89, Grandmother John Purdy to 89, Grandmother lived for 40 years after her husband's death. Haturia Vrooman lived 28 years after her husband's death. There are a lot of stories of love and sacrifices for us by our elders and years of help given to them also when our own young children needed all we seemed able to earn to educate and support them.



These problems of old age attach no blame anywhere. Thank God we are coming to realize them and old age pensions are being provided which help to give a feeling of independence. It is terrible for older people to feel a dependence on their children and have an "over the hill to the poor house" complex. We in California are leading the U.S. in this respect. There is a lot of difference between the words "pension" and "relief". There is peace of mind in the word pension. Oldsters feel that maybe they helped create the civilization and background that made their pension possible; that they are getting back a little interest on the money, time, labor and sweat they gave in taxes, wars and contributions. "The divine right of Kings" is still with us, however, only transferred to a larger group of those who feel that their intelligence is measured by their wealth. When they give they want it to be relief, so their superiority is recognized. So we who advocate systematic giving are said to want a "welfare state", and advocate "creeping socialism".

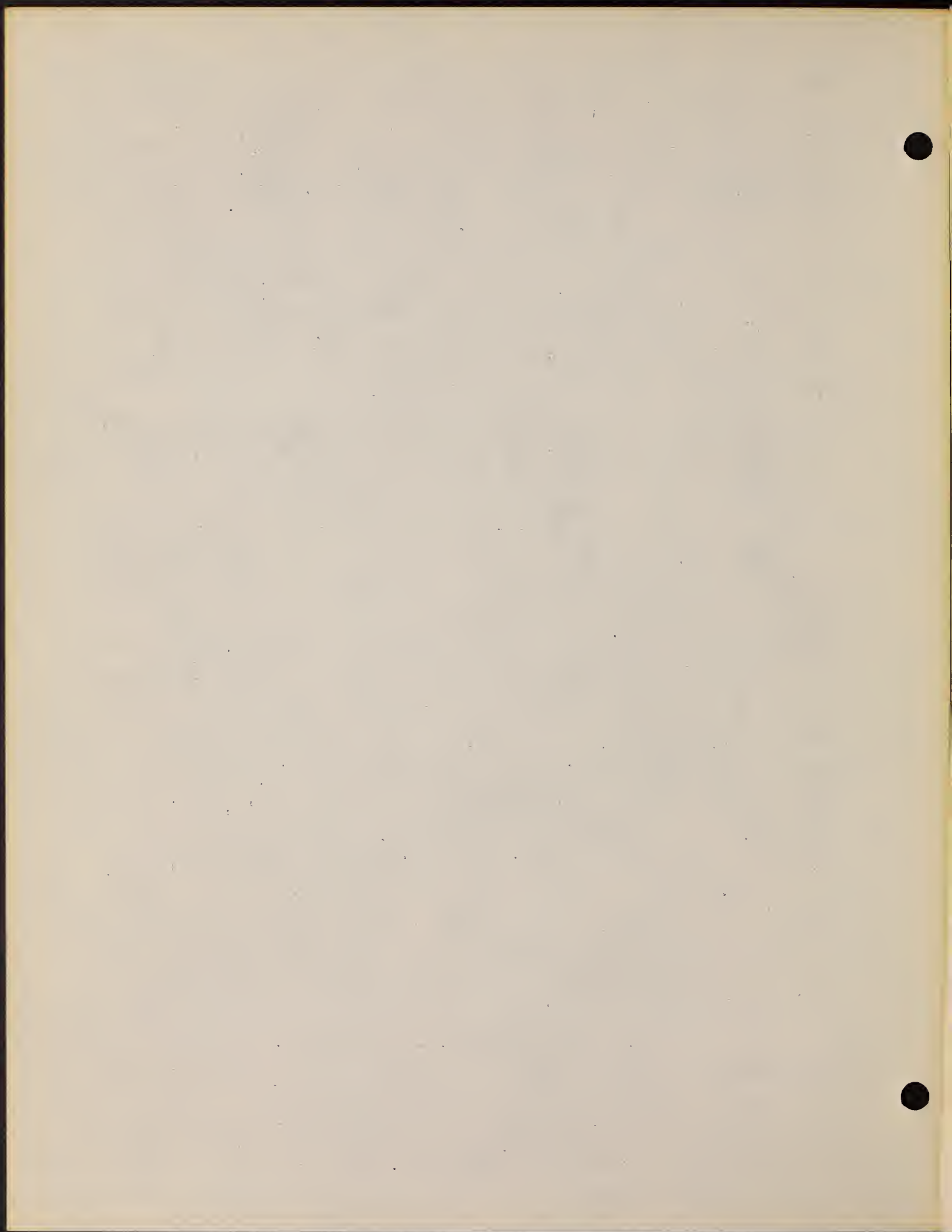
Fortunately, for our country there are a lot of older citizens who have money, influence, time, and a long memory. They likewise are altruistic and do not feel that helping the other fellow up needs to pull them down.

We Attend the Funeral of Harold Purdy of Kingston

Claude V. Purdy of Kingston our first Purdy acquaintance in Canada, called us at the Rutherfords and told us of the death of his brother Harold of Kingston. When we were in Kingston, Harold Purdy was in the hospital and very ill. We never had an opportunity to visit him. Claude had intended spending more time showing us around but this prevented him from doing so. In respect to Claude for his kindness to us and in our respect for all the Purdys, we had met we decided to return to Kingston for the funeral. Claude kindly invited us to the funeral home where the family met before the funeral and while there we met a number of the Purdys of the Lou Purdy family. Lou Purdy, you will recall was one of the three sons of Sam Purdy. Lou was my first cousin. Sam and my mother were brother and sister. Lou married Lois M. Papineau. The children were Harold, Albert Edward, called Burt, Helen, Donald and Claude. We met all the families but Donald's at the funeral. We met Donald later in Toronto. After the funeral, we met again at the home of Mrs. Harold P. Purdy at 8 Kensington Avenue in Kingston. At the grave we momentarily met Walter's son, William W. Purdy and his wife and two small sons. We were invited into the family room while at the home of Harold's wife and treated as one of the family. This we appreciated very much because we hardly knew how we would be received in such a situation and how to act. We were embarrassed to receive any attention at this sad time and yet were so anxious to meet our Purdy relatives whom we had never heard of before.

The Harold Purdy Family of Kingston

Harold Purdy who died in Kingston in August, 1961 was the son of Lou Purdy and Lois Papineau. He was in the milling business with his brother Claude for some time but later he was in a number of business enterprises including apartments also a large purebred stock farm near Bath. He and his wife Lena lived in Kingston at 8 Kensington for many years. They had two children now



married and with families.

Beverly Purdy, the only daughter, married Colonel J. S. Hitsman, M.D., a doctor in the Canadian army near Toronto. Dr. Hitsman served in Korea and is an internist in the Army hospital called Sunnybrook Hospital. Their home is at 31 Northdale Road, Willowdale, Ontario. I understand that Dr. Hitsman has received high honors direct from the Prime Minister of Canada for outstanding service while in Korea.

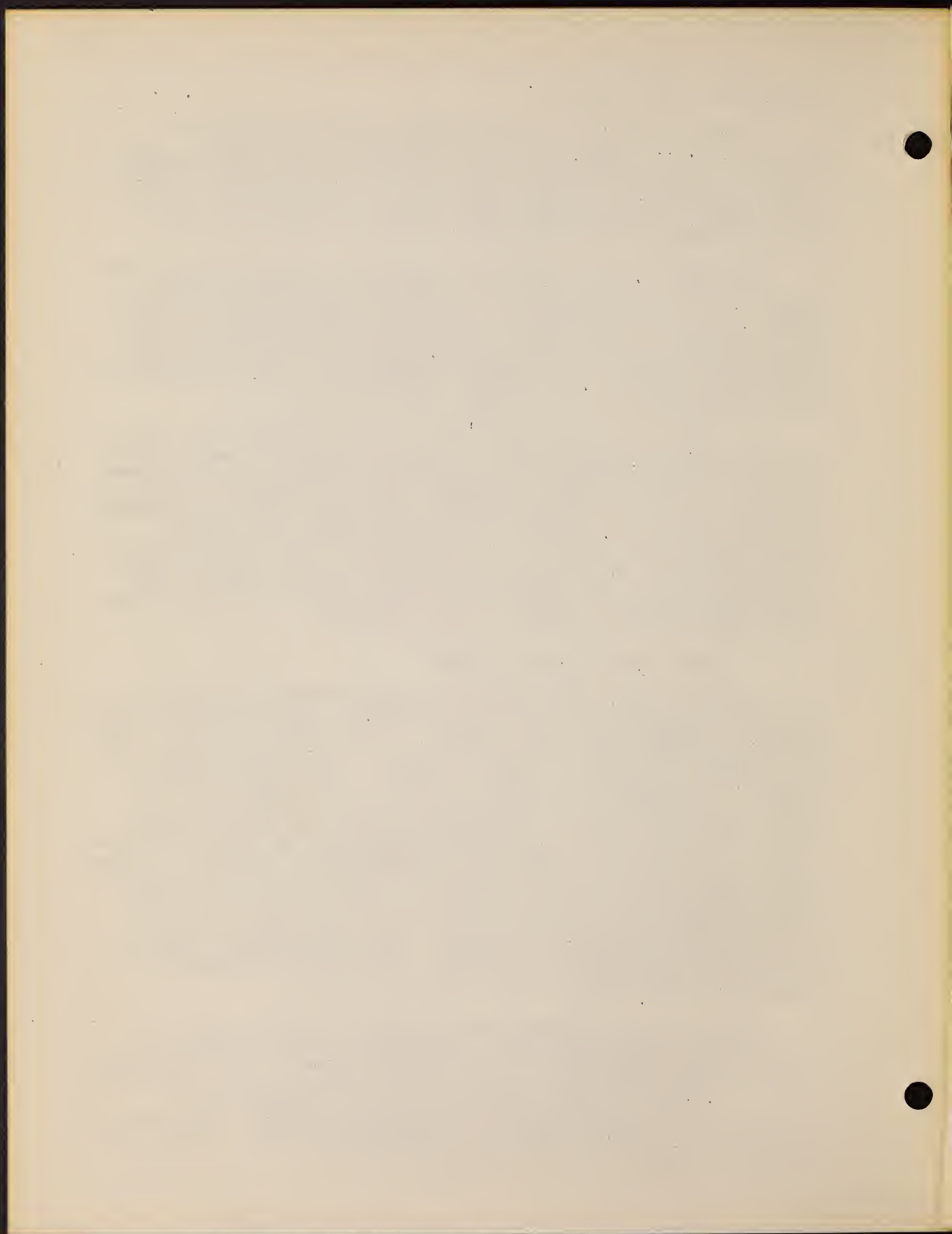
Douglas W. Purdy is the only son of Harold and his wife Lena Purdy. We had an opportunity to visit Douglas and his wife Jo Anne, and their children Beth, Susan and John at their farm near Bath, Ontario. Claude took us out there toward the latter part of our visit to Canada after we had returned from a second trip to Trenton, Brighton and Toronto. Douglas moved to this farm after his father's death. It is a lovely place with a large home and expansive fields along the shore of Lake Ontario.

Mrs. Lena Purdy, Harold's wife, of 3 Kensington, is a very gracious lady. We visited her some time after the funeral. She told us many interesting things about her husband and their lives together. We did not learn anything about the activities of the children or get any dates of births, marriages or even educational accomplishments. We do not know anything about Mrs. Purdy's maiden name or her family. We would like to know more about Lou Purdy's family. We would like to include it. It did not seem appropriate to ask too much so soon after Harold's death. The dignified brick home of the Harold Purdy's showed in itself their social standing and prestige in the community.

Mr. & Mrs. Claude V. Purdy

Claude V. Purdy and his wife Olive Purdy have one child Suzanne, a lovely girl in her latter teens. We were very fortunate indeed in meeting the Claude Purdys. Both Claude and his wife own and manage Youth Center stores. It was after correspondence with Claude that we decided to come to Canada. They both treated us royally, inviting us into their lovely home, out in the country some two or three miles. The setting for this acreage home is really marvelous. Being an outdoor landscape enthusiast myself, I can appreciate the background and foreground of a home developed with the idea of open fronts and beautiful vista affects. No home built where land is not liberally used can hope to get the outdoor naturalistic beauty of such a place. With the river and forest effects added and distant hills, the sunsets to the west were simply gorgeous. Canada is a place where naturalistic beauty is at its best in thousands of places. Claude and Olive's home is from the outside hard to equal, from the inside it is just as artistic.

Claude and his nephew Douglas Purdy took us on a trip to Adolphus Town and Pictoro and to the first burial ground of the United Empire Loyalists. Through them we met Dr. H.C. Burleigh, U.E.L. historian of Bath. Through Dr. Burleigh we were introduced to H. P. Gundy the Chief Librarian at Queen's University of Kingston. We visited the beautiful farm of Douglas Purdy which he had recently inherited from his father Harold Purdy. Douglas and his wife Jo Ann were just beginning to redecorate this fine old



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country estate.

Claude took us out to Collins Bay and toured Bath where the earliest Purdys located their land. We found the old store house where David, the first Purdy in Canada to take up land settled. David Purdy was the eldest one of the four brothers from New York who received land with the very first few settlers. David raised his family here. Among his nine children was John Purdy, our grandfather John.

While the numerous other contacts have made it impossible for us to keep in close touch with Mr. Claude Purdy, we do appreciate his interest in our problem at the beginning.

Claude and his wife helped us with the ground work of our visit. He was considerate to us in many ways. We can never forget the courtesy and helpfulness he showed us.

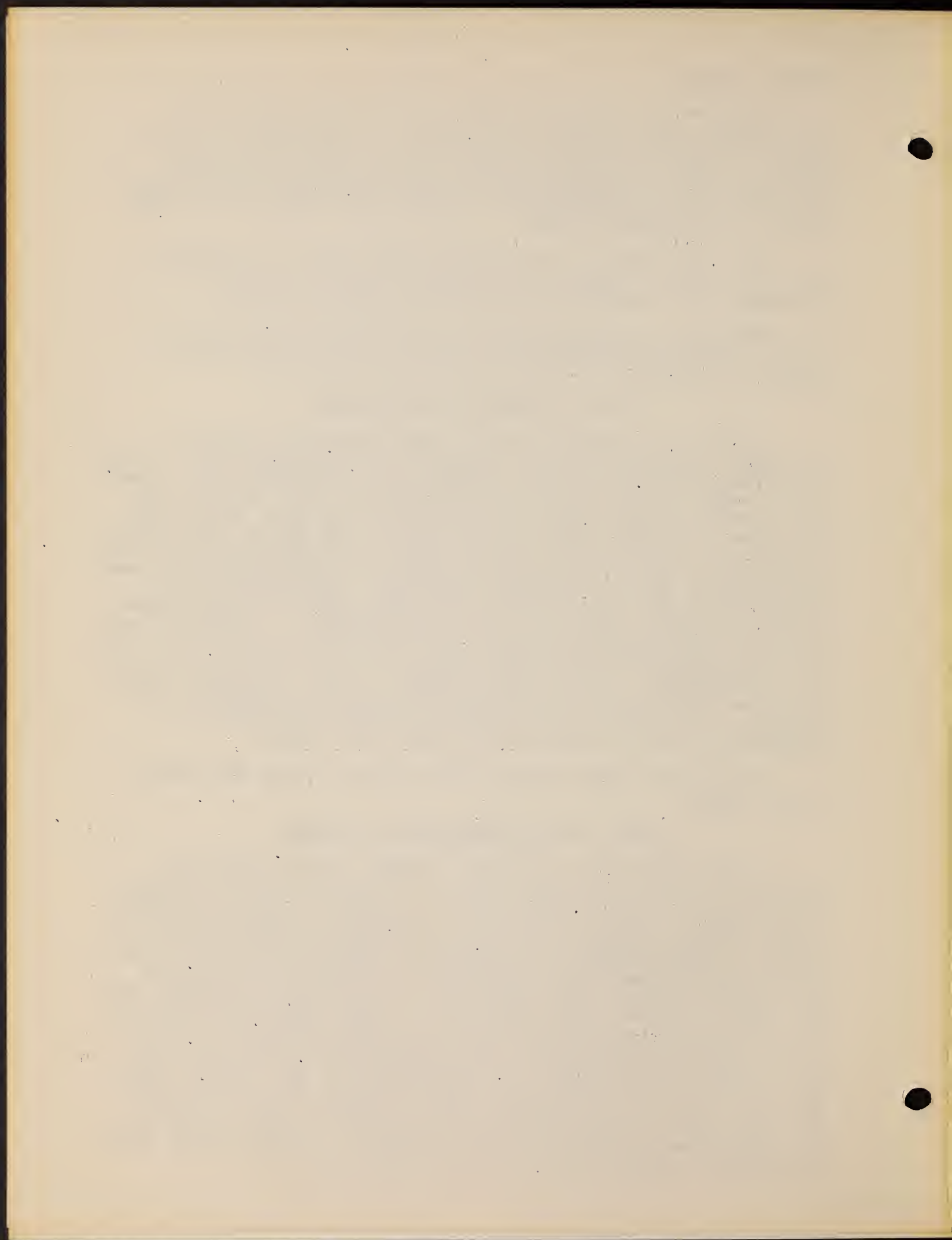
Albert Edward Purdy and Family

We have mentioned that Claude Purdy took us on a tour of Bellville, Trenton, Brighton, Colborne and Castleton on one of our first days in Canada. On this quick trip we stopped to see Albert "Bert" Purdy at his feed mill in Belleville. He is another son of Lou Purdy. "Bert" said that I looked a lot like Walter Purdy his uncle. Several mentioned that to me. The Albert Purdys have a summer home out in the country a bit. We visited with Mrs. Purdy at this home. They have quite an acreage of apples and much river front acreage being subdivided into homes. On our second trip through Bellville, we stopped for a longer visit but unfortunately missed the Albert Purdys who were just starting on a weekend party. The fine brick home in Bellville and the milling business they were in would indicate that the Purdys here were prosperous citizens and old time settlers. Albert had suffered a slight paralytic stroke some time previous but fortunately was recovering from this misfortune. The family had no children of their own except an adopted son perhaps in his middle teens whom we met.

We also met Albert Edward Purdy and his wife at the Harold Purdy funeral.

Helen Purdy a Daughter of Lou Purdy

A short time after our trip to Toronto, Claude helped us arrange a luncheon visit with Helen Purdy now Mrs. C.S. Allyea in Trenton. We had met Mrs. Allyea and husband at the funeral. We also met her son who was just establishing a jewelry store in Ottawa with the help of his mother and father. We came back from Toronto in time to meet this appointment because Claude was to be there and likewise because arrangements were made to have Miss Hazel Farley there. Miss Farley was a relative of the Purdys who had made a study of Purdy genealogy, to some extent, and would be able to help us in our work. We had a lovely afternoon with the Allyeas and Miss Farley but Claude was unable to come. The next day we invited the Allyeas to have dinner with us at the quaint Gilbert Inn where we stayed for several days. The Allyeas have a nice home and a lovely jewelry store in Trenton. They showed us the large home of the James Vrooman family in Trenton. Many of our Purdys have lived in and around Trenton. A good deal of Purdy history has happened here. We will discuss it later.



Gordon Purdy Youngest Son of Lou Purdy

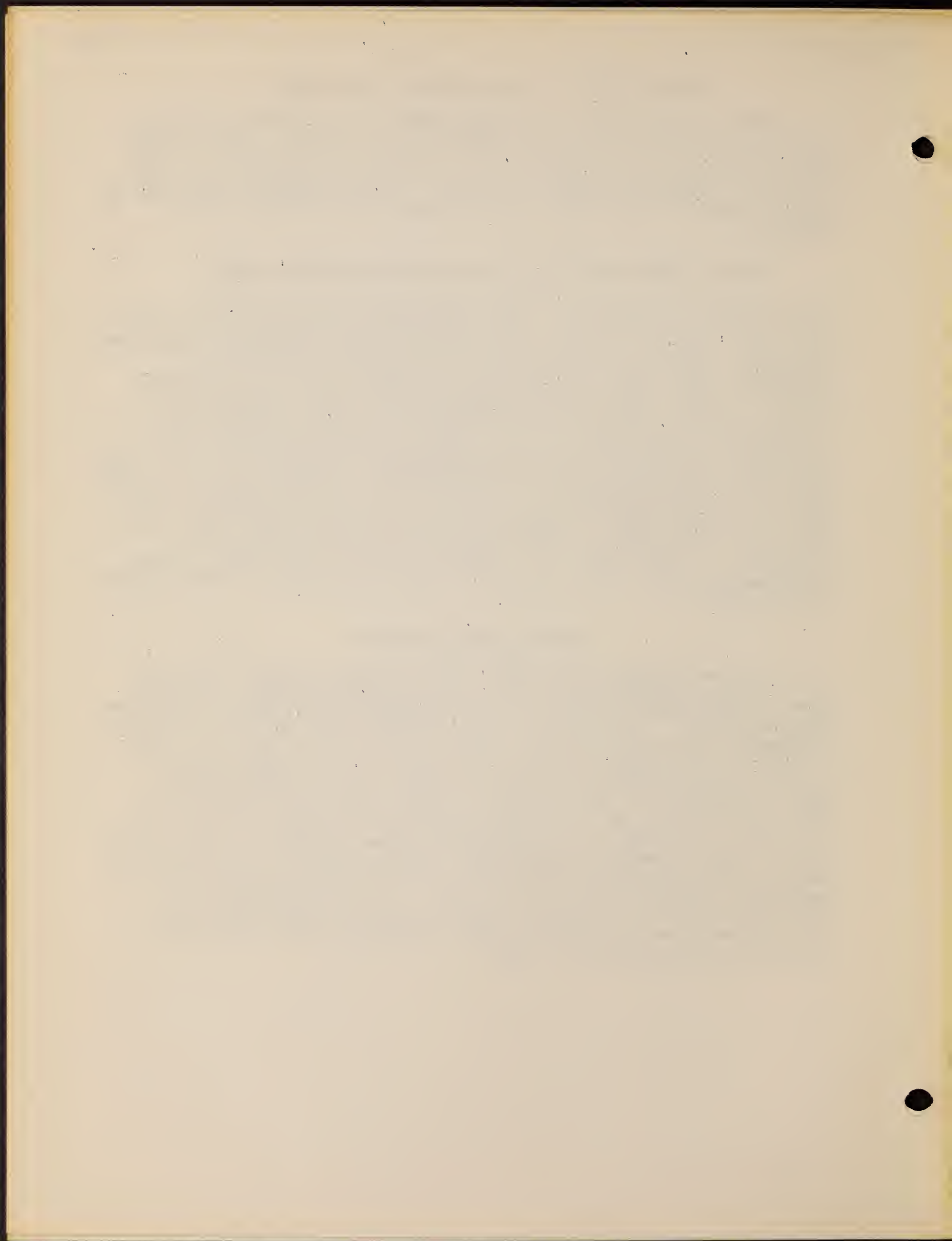
Gordon Purdy's home is at 2181 Avenue Road Toronto, Ontario. On our trip to Toronto we met Gordon and his wife. They came to our hotel and we had a brief visit. They were soon to go to New York to attend the wedding of a son. Gordon is a teacher in the Industrial Education field in Toronto. He has taught some time in Arizona where he went on account of the health of one of his children.

The Lou Purdy Family, Lou Was A Son of Samuel Purdy

We have discussed the five members who grew to adults, married and have families. They are Harold, Albert Edward, Helen (Mrs. C.S. Allyea), Claude and Gordon. There were seven altogether, two others died when young and are buried in the Castleton Cemetery. Lou Purdy was my mother's nephew and my first cousin. In actual Purdy blood relationship I am 50% of the Purdy-Fretz family. Lou is likewise. My children and Lou's children are 25% the same as Purdy-Fretz. So if there are only a million "genes" or characters representing Purdy in the grandfather, there are half that many in each succeeding generation but plenty left to indicate certain family resemblances. All the Purdys in Canada of our group came from Gilbert Purdy, Sr. He was Sam's great grandfather. He was Lou's great great grandfather and the great great great grandfather of Lou's family. The Purdy blood here is reduced by marriage to 31,250 parts in a million genes. It is still pretty potent and may carry many dominant characteristics even when reduced 1 in 32 parts.

Our Journey Thus Far

We have traveled since the first day with Claude Purdy over many towns, quite familiar towns in our Purdy history. We have left Kingston and traveled to the Rutherford home between Colborne and Castleton. While there we have visited many people and places especially the old Castleton Mill and Sam Purdy's Coe Hill Mills. We have learned much from Mrs. Will Purdy of Castleton and from her family. We have visited Mrs. Walter Purdy at Petersburg. Then we returned to the funeral of Harold Purdy at Kingston and saw personally all of the family of Lou except Gordon of Toronto, and most of the families of Lou's children. Later we spent over a week in Toronto visiting Ridley's son, Will Purdy, now 88 years old and his wife Audrey Hagerman Purdy. We were entertained by Will's daughter Winnifred Ellis in her home. We were entertained by Miss Ione Oakes of 88 George Street, Mimico. The information we received and were directed toward by these relatives was very gratifying and generously given.



The Family and Decendants of David Purdy and Abigail Ostrom

Elsewhere it is made clear that David was the eldest son of Gilbert Purdy, Sr. of Newburgh, N.Y. who fell while in the King's Army on the way to Philadelphia. Elsewhere it is told that David was a sergeant in the 19th Regiment of the King's Army and he and his three other brothers, Gilbert, Samuel and Micajah later came to Canada in 1783. In 1784 they got their land with the very first group under Michael Grass. David is especially mentioned as receiving Lot 42, 1st Concession, Ernesttown on the boundary with Kingston Concession. The old stone house that David built is still there between Bath and Collins Bay. Later his sons, Samuel and Joseph resided many years on this old property in two stone houses near each other.

Considerable is written in "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte" about David's younger brother, Gilbert and his decendants but little about David himself. It is told in Dr. Burleigh's (U.E.L. Historian) notes that later on he deeded his property for a few shillings to his second son, Ruliph.

David Purdy married Abigail Ostrom. The dates on David's birth, death or marriage, we are not certain about. As stated by Dr. H.C. Burleigh the Parish Register at St. John's Church, Bath, Rev. John L. Langhorne, first Pastor, notes the first baptism in the family, that of a son, Micajah, on February 10, 1794. Elsewhere records of the drawing of land by all of the family including Abigail indicate that Gilbert drew his land in 1810. Ruliph drew his in 1810 also. Since Gilbert and Ruliph are the two oldest children and they could not draw land until they were 21 years of age, it seems each was born before 1789. Micajah, the first one baptised in 1794 would be perhaps the third or fourth child. This all adds up to the probable marriage of Abigail and David at least 22 years before Gilbert drew his land at age 21 or around 1788.

In the old book "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte" there is as much of a write-up about the Ostoms as there is about David's younger brother, Gilbert. From several sources it is indicated that this write-up has many errors. A resume of both the Ostoms and Gilbert Purdy is included in this pamphlet. Turning to it elsewhere herein you will note that Abigail Ostrom is the daughter of Ruliff or Roeliff Ostrom and later on the same page it is noted that she was baptised on April 14, 1764 at the First Reformed Dutch Church, Poughkeepsid, N.Y. Also of note is that the "Ostoms drew land on the Front of Sidney about five miles west of where Belleville now stands. The Ostoms were one of the first three or four families to settle in Sidney. It must be added that it is an error to say that Abigail was married in 1810 and baptised in 1764, when we have just learned from Dr. Burleigh in his study of land grants, her son Ruliph drew his land in 1910 at 21 years of age as other youths.

It is to be noted that Diana, a sister of Abigail married Abel Gilbert of Sidney on February 16, 1811. In the J.C. Clark diary is the following item. "Old Mrs. Abigail Purdy, a widow of the late Mr. David Purdy died sudden at noon, January 4, 1852 aged 90 years, 2 months and 19 days, born Oct. 16, 1761". It is explained under subtitle Ruliph Purdy, that he married Widow Gilbert whose maiden name was Clapp of Fredricksburgh. No relationship is noted between Diana and this "idow" Gilbert.

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David and Abigail raised a family of nine children. All in turn had families of their own of considerable note and reputation. Both in David's family and in the families of his three brothers, all indications point to prestige, success and social recognition much above the average. David's son John Purdy, however, after raising a family of 11 children, committed suicide under conditions which to most would seem justified. Sick with cancer and given less than six months to live he gave up at 60 years of age. There were no sedatives to relieve pain that are generally available these days.

In the J.C. Clark diary it is mentioned that Abigail suffered "mental aberrations" at times. At any rate she succeeded in raising this fine family of 9 children, many of them after her husband David passed on.

It appears that Abigail took her younger children John and Jacob back to Sidney where her people came from during her later years. John and Jacob drew their land in 1836 and Joseph in 1835. This was 25 years after Gilbert and Ruliph did. Abigail drew her land in 1810 and since her husband gave his land to Ruliph it must be that the younger sons were at home with their mother for some time. John was married and had two children before he drew his land. Special attention is devoted hereafter to certain members of this family especially to John Purdy, Jacob Purdy, Gilbert Purdy and Ruliph Purdy. The brothers John and Jacob married the Fretz sisters, Anna and Amelia of Fredericksburg. The brothers Samuel and Jacob married Eliza and Minerva Lockwood respectively.

Ruliph Purdy

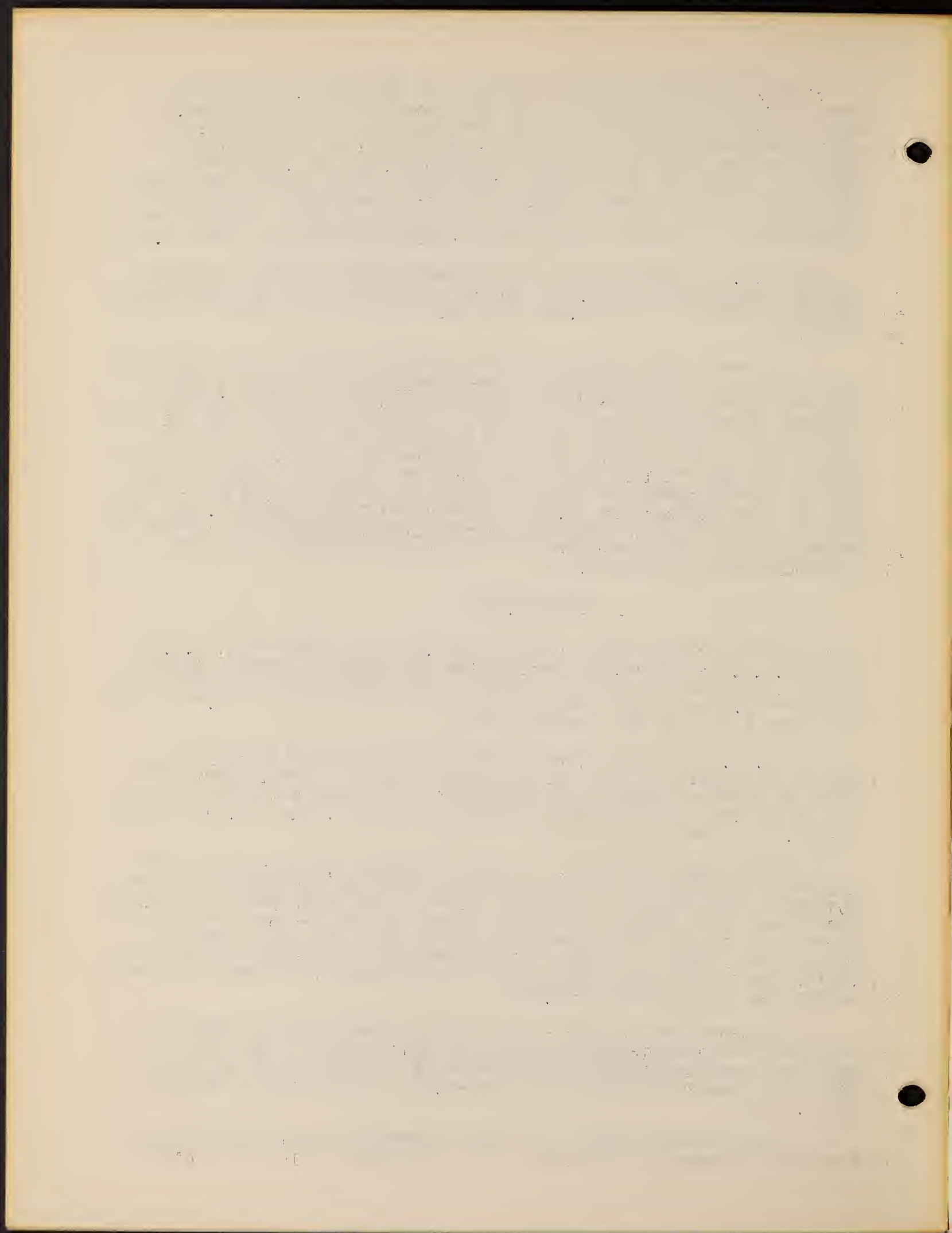
From records of 1844, elsewhere quoted, and written by Dr. H.C. Burleigh, U.E.L. Historian, of Bath is the following quote, "Ruliph another son, married a Widow Gilbert, whose maiden name was Clapp of Fredericksburgh. They lived and died in the Township of Sidney, where he became a wealthy and prominent man."

In the J. C. Clarke diary on file in the Queen's University Library at Kingston, it is noted, quote "May 20, 1856--Ruliph Purdy, Esq., of Sidney, a native of Ernesttown being the son of the late Mr. David Purdy, and brother of Samuel D. Purdy, Esq., and Mr. Joseph Purdy, etc., died this morning."

In the Parish Register, St. John's Church, Bath, Reverend John Langhorne, First Pastor, the record of baptisms of certain members of David's and Abigail's family is noted. Note this record elsewhere. The oldest three children Gilbert, Ruliph and Samuel are not included. However all of the family are given dates when they were granted their land. Ruliph drew his with Gilbert and his mother Abigail in 1810. They could draw their land at 21 so Ruliph must have been born before 1789 as previously stated.

Ruliph settled in Sidney and became quite wealthy as quoted. We learn from Hazel Farley of Trenton that Ruliph was her great grandfather and quote "he was supposed to have the first carpet and the first pleasure sleigh in the district". He had curly hair and blue eyes.

We have learned from Will Purdy of Toronto that Ruliph had a daughter who married a Dorland. We have learned from Elva May Hobbs,



a granddaughter of Jacob Purdy (brother of John Purdy) and from my mother's letters and from other sources that there were three Dorland sisters, cousins of Sam, my mother and all the John Purdy family. Their names were Carrie, Flora and Julia. One of these sisters committed suicide under tragic conditions, two of them loved the same man.

Ruliph Purdy had another daughter, Tobitha Purdy who married a ? Jones. The children of this marriage were Dave, John, Gilbert and Jane Ann. Gilbert may also have been the father's name. My mother's letters speak of the Jones family as cousins a number of times, especially John and Dave who owned stores in Trenton and elsewhere. Ruliph was my mother Emma's uncle, a brother of her father John Purdy.

We must bear in mind that Ruliph married a widow Gilbert whose maiden name was Clapp of Fredericksburg. Whether widow Gilbert is the mother of Tobitha or perhaps Ruliph was married twice may be a question. This data about Widow Gilbert is from the J.C. Clark diary on file in Queen's University, Kingston. Dr. Burleigh of Bath also states "Ruliph Purdy of Ernestown and Deborah Gilbert, a widow of Sidney, were married on July 8, 1811 by Pastor McDowall, Registrar."

While my mother speaks of the Jones boys as cousins, it seems that their mother Tobitha Purdy Jones, the daughter of Ruliph is really her first cousin. Likewise Tobitha is the first cousin of Sam, Ridley, Ralph, Maturia Vrooman and the others of the John Purdy-Anna Fretz family.

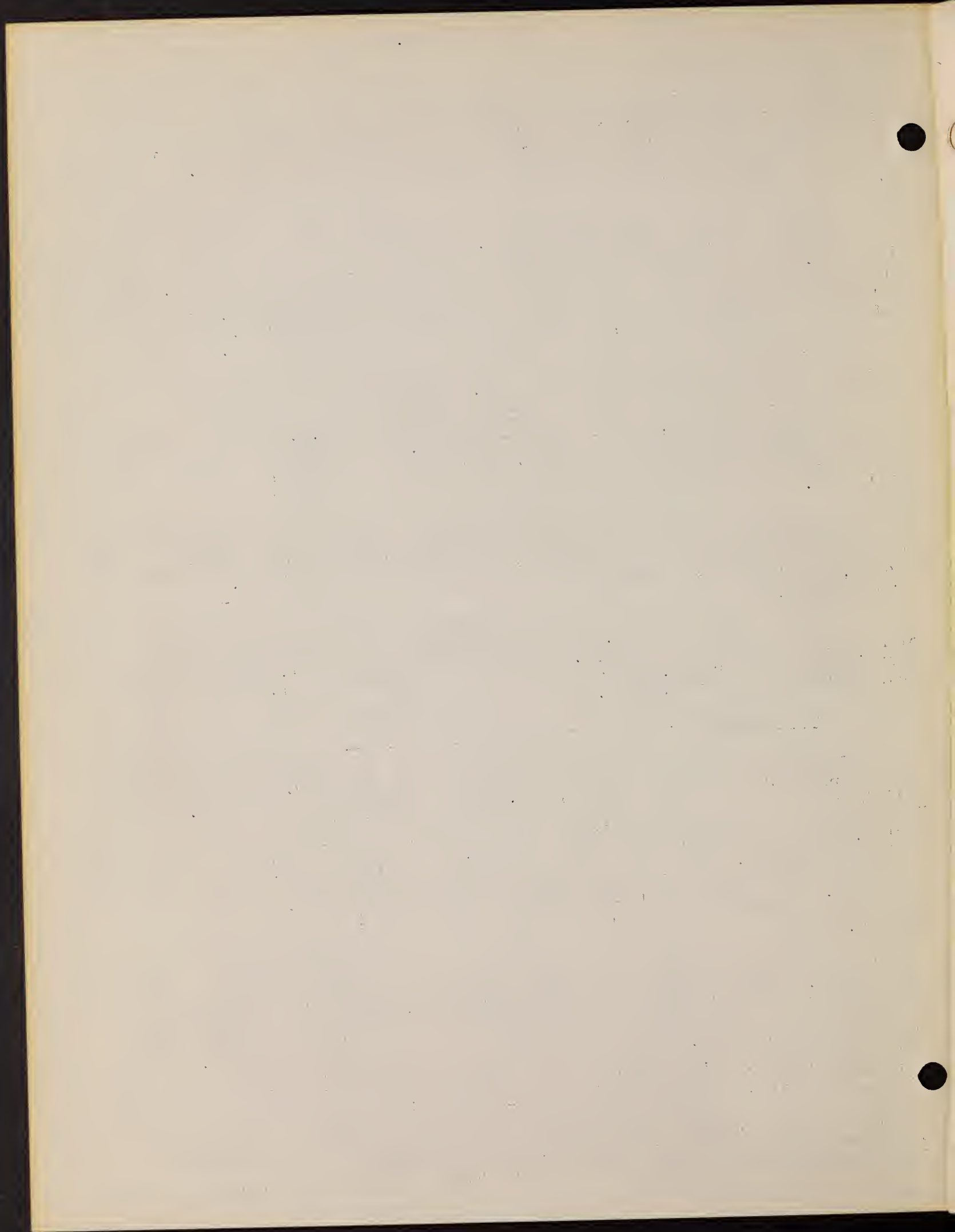
An obituary held by Mrs. Elva May Hobbs and found in her letter of May 5, 1962 shows that a Mrs. Edna Gordon (mother of Dr. Vernen Purdy's wife of Toronto, now deceased, was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Farley Young. Mrs. Gordon was buried at Wooler, Ontario.

Jones - Purdy - Farley - Palmer Relationships

A Jones married Ruliph Purdy's daughter Tobitha Purdy. Their family included as mentioned Dave, John, Gilbert and Jane Ann Jones. Ruliph was Jane Ann Jones' grandfather. Jane Ann married William Farley and the children are Warden, Hazel, Habel and Dr. Frank Farley. Ruliph is their great grandfather. Tobitha Purdy Jones is their grandmother. The Jones boys, Dave, John, Gilbert are uncles of the four Farleys mentioned and brothers of their mother Jane Ann Jones. Our Purdy family--Sam, Ridley, Ralph, Maturia Vrooman and my mother Emma are all cousins of Jane Ann Jones' mother, Tobitha.

In actual blood relationship which is the only way to determine Purdy blood, Ruliph and John are brothers. Tobitha and Sam are 50% Purdy of that generation. Jane Ann and Sam's children (such as Lew of Kingston) are 25% and Lew Purdy's family such as Helen Allyea, Burt of Belleville etc., are 12½% of the old John and Ruliph family. Will Purdy of Trenton, a first cousin of mine is a 25% of the old family and Vern his son is 12½%. The Farley family, Jane Ann's children are all 12½% of the old Ruliph-John family.

The Farley Purdy relationship of the Sam Purdy family and the Ralph Purdy family is further complicated by the fact that Mary Eliza Palmer married Samuel L. Purdy and Sarah, her sister, married



Ralph Purdy. From Hazel Farley and her brother Warden we have learned, Katheryn Palmer married Ichobod Warden and their daughter Maria Warden married James J. Farley. William Farley, the son of this marriage in turn married Jane Ann Jones. Here is a relationship between Palmers and Purdys of the Samuel-Ralph family.

From Effie Purdy, the daughter of Ralph Purdy, now living in Santa Barbara at 118 Chapala Street, Apt. 3, one of my first cousins. (Her father, Ralph, was my mother's brother) we have obtained a family outline of the Palmers from the old Palmer bible. This outline is printed herein but does not connect Katheryn Palmer. Rumor and notes from Will of Toronto, Hazel Farley and others has indicated that William Farley who married Jane Ann Jones is a cousin of the Palmer sisters who married the Purdy brothers. I cannot verify this rumor or state now this occurs. Elsewhere among Effie Purdy's letters are leads in this matter. It would seem that perhaps Wilson Palmer, the father of the Palmer sisters, Mary Eliza who married Sam, and Sarah who married Ralph (Sam's brother) Purdy was a brother of Katheryn Palmer who married Ichobod Warden.

This Palmer bible record briefly is that Wilson L. Palmer born 1806 married Laura T. Toomis born 1814 on December 30th, 1835. Their children were Warden Palmer born 1849; Theodore H. Palmer born 1852; Lewis L. Palmer born 1854; Mary Eliza Palmer 1839; Sarah M. Palmer 1843; Lydia A. Palmer 1857.

Nellie, a sister of Effie, still living, obtained this record from Frankie P. Wendell, a daughter of Phillip Palmer, who was a brother of Wilson L. Palmer. From Effie we learn that there were other children in the Wilson L. Palmer family who died young. Also we were told that Warden and Theodore were never married; they went to Western Canada and had large land holdings around Medicine Hat, Alberta.

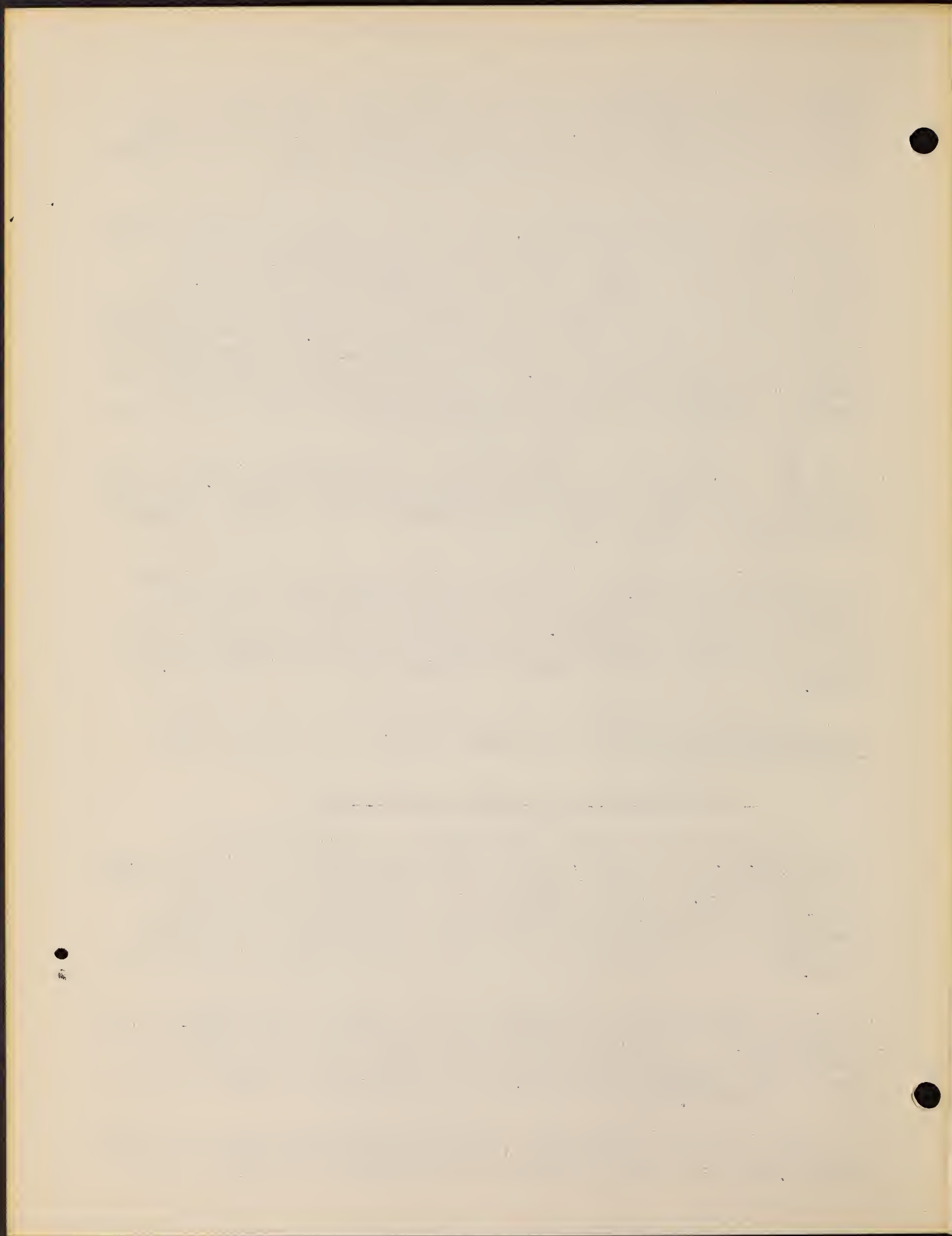
In Effie's letters we learn that she visited her mother's people often in Trenton or Brighton or Belleville and knew other Purdys and Farleys.

Gilbert, the Eldest Son of David Purdy

In the records of 1844 and other data summarized for the Purdys by Dr. H. C. Burleigh, we note that Gilbert is the oldest son. He drew his land in 1810 probably at age 21 or after, so he was born in 1789 or before. There seems to be no positive dates of the marriage of his mother, Abigail and father, David. "This Gilbert married Miss Asenath Goldsmith of Hallowell Township in 1816 who left him". It is assumed that he later married Hannah Gould perhaps in 1817.

H. Pearson Gundy, Chief Librarian of Queen's University at Kingston wrote a six page pamphlet about Gilbert Purdy, Pioneer-Jack-of-all-Trades. A summary of this pamphlet is included. It gives considerable insight into the nature of the work of a general handy man in the community at this time. Unfortunately, it tells little of his family life.

From Elva Mae Hobbs, the granddaughter of Jacob Purdy, a brother of this Gilbert Purdy, we have a glimpse of Gilbert when a very old man. Mrs. Hobbs' mother knew him and kept him in her home. She



was forced to send him to his brother, Samuel D. Purdy, to spend the winter. According to Mrs. Hobbs, her mother, Millie, told her that her Uncle Gilbert married a "Gould". We have learned much about this Gould family and the family of Gilbert Purdy and Hannah Gould. It is the beginning of a long line of Purdys which has been outlined in some detail. As yet we have no further proof of this connection than the letter of Mrs. Elva May Hobbs that her mother knew and kept this Gilbert in her home and knew of his marriage to a Gould.

If we can show that this Gilbert Purdy married Hannah Gould then we find that their children were James, Richard, Hannah, Roxie, Eleanor 1820-1845 and Ira Wesley Purdy 1818-1863, and we have a long listing of descendants quite carefully worked out, through the help of Mr. William Purdy, 7641 Placentia Ave., Anaheim, California introduced to us by Mrs. A. C. Metcalfe mentioned again below. We do have also considerable data concerning the Gould family through the efforts of Mrs. A. C. Metcalfe of 73 Sherwood Ave., Toronto 12, Ontario. Mrs. Metcalfe is a granddaughter of Ira Wesley Purdy, a son of Gilbert Purdy.

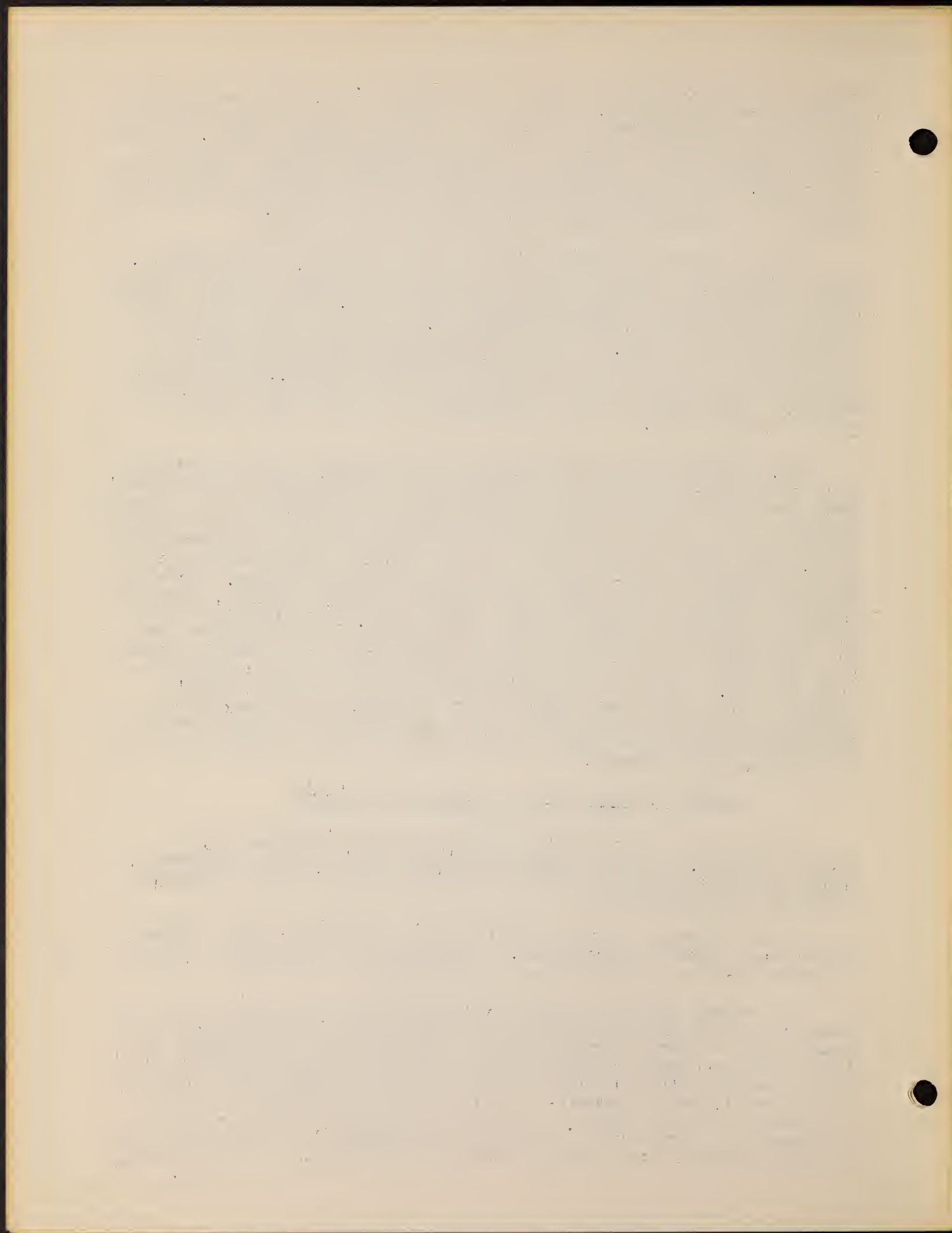
Mrs. Metcalfe in her letter to me of December 10, 1961 states that her mother, the daughter of Ira Wesley Purdy, used to tell her that she was sure the Purdys of Castleton were related to her father's family. This refers to the John Purdy family. John, we are trying to prove is a younger brother of the Gilbert Purdy who married Hannah Gould, the father of Ira Wesley Purdy. Through Ella Mae Hobbs, the granddaughter of Jacob, who is another brother of Gilbert and John, we have quoted directly that this Gilbert married a Gould. From the Gilbert Purdy-Hannah Gould outline also from Mrs. Metcalfe, we hear that Ira Wesley was born in 1818. From the J.C. Clarke diary and Dr. Burleigh, we read that Gilbert Purdy, the son of David of Ernesttown was parted from his wife Asenath Goldsmith of Hallowell Township in 1816. There is no conflict here with the idea that he married Hannah Gould soon afterwards. Elsewhere in Mrs. Hobb's letters, we find that her mother knew and kept in her home the Gilbert Purdy who was her uncle and her father Jacob's brother and who she said married a Gould.

Samuel D. Purdy, Son of David and Abigail

In the letters from Ella Mae Hobbs found elsewhere among copied letters, we quote "Mother (Millie, Jacob Purdy's daughter) lists her Uncle Samuel's family as Ralph, Joseph, Samuel, Charlie, Eliza Ann and Sarah Jane."

We are forced to gather facts in this study from many sources. Repetition gathers these facts. We either make statements without adequate proof or repeat ourselves very often.

In records of 1844 by Dr. H.C. Burleigh, we have noted that "Samuel married Eliza and Joseph married Minerva, daughters of Samuel Lockwood". We have learned from Dr. Burleigh that both Samuel and Joseph settled in stone houses near each other between Collins Bay and Ernesttown (Bath), one of which was the original home of David and Abigail, their parents. The writers have visited and taken pictures of these houses. We were accompanied by Claude V. Purdy of Kingston, grandson of Sam Purdy of Castleton. We understand that they are located near the line between the townships of Ernesttown



and Kingston on Lot 42, Township of Ernesttown.

The J.C. Clarke diary on file in the Queen's University of Kingston has considerable material in it concerning Samuel D. and Joseph Purdy. J. C. Clarke was a neighbor and personally knew the Purdy family of David and Abigail and especially the two sons mentioned. The diary as it affects the Purdys is to be found elsewhere in this write-up. Of special note are several items as follows:

"Oct. 24, 1861, Mr. Ralph Purdy, son of Samuel D. Purdy, Esq., and Miss Sylvia Maria Haines, all of Ernesttown, married by the Rev. George Young."

"Oct. 29, 1862, Mr. Samuel H. Purdy, son of Samuel D. Purdy, Esq., of Ernesttown and Miss Rhoda Ann, daughter of Calvin H. Day, Esq., of the Township of Kingston, married by the Rev. John Wesley German."

"June 26, 1854, Rev. John Wesley German and Miss Sarah Jane Purdy, daughter of Samuel D. Purdy, Esq., married."

"Nov. 14, 1851, Miss Sarah Jane Purdy, 21 years old today, born November 14, 1829."

"Feb. 18, 1856, Samuel D. Purdy, Esq., started for Sidney with his brother John Purdy and wife who have been down at his brothers for more than 6 weeks."

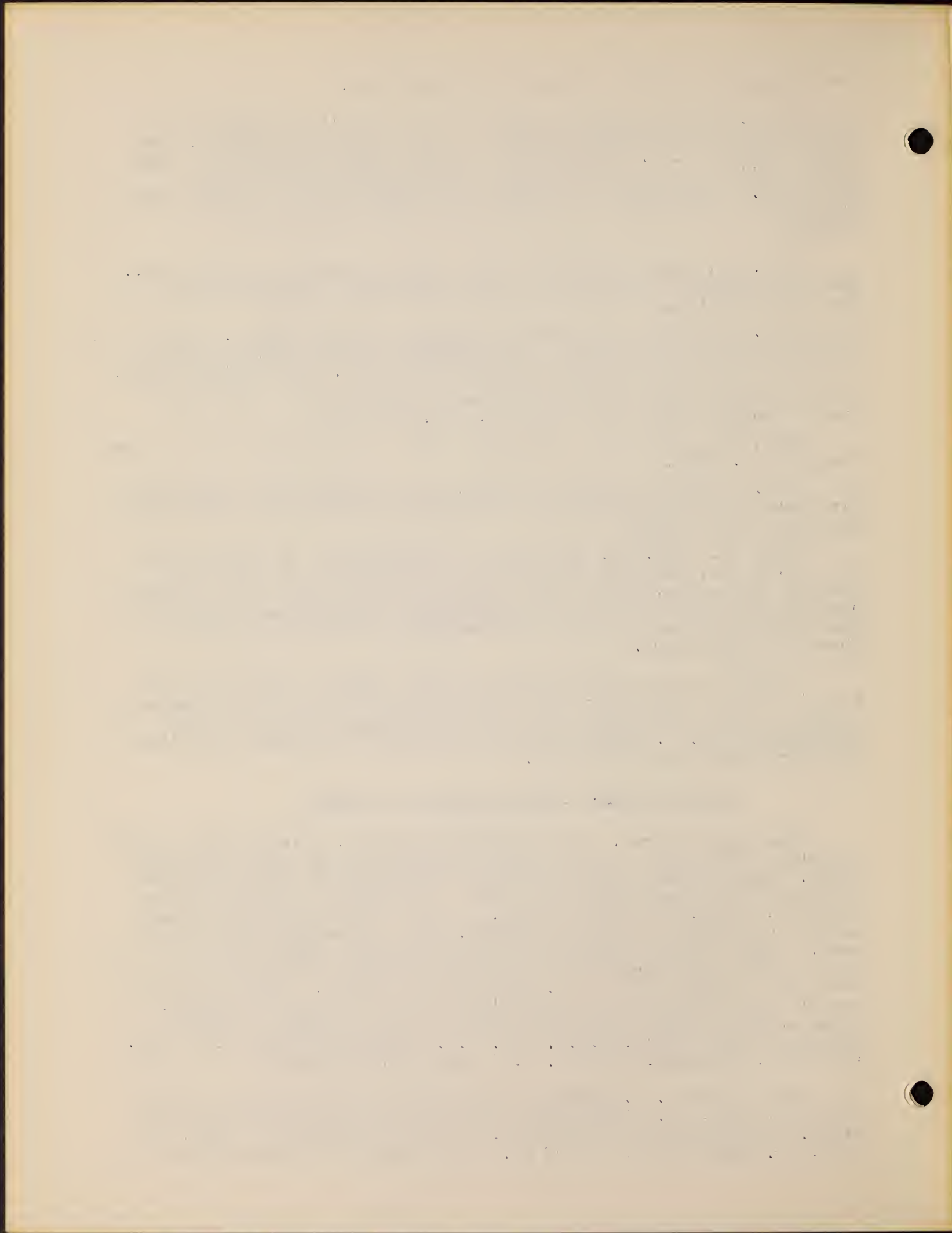
"Dec. 31, 1857, Mr. Henry Day of the Township of Kingston and Miss Eliza Ann, daughter of Samuel D. Purdy, Esq., of Ernesttown married by the Rev. John Wesley German". (Note: that this minister married the sister of Eliza Ann named Sarah Jane--above.) Also note that Henry Day became Dr. Day of Trenton, a prominent physician there for many years.

We find in Dr. Burleigh's notes that Samuel D. Purdy drew his land in 1820. Many other items in the J. C. Clarke diary concerning Samuel D. Purdy indicate that he and his family were well known personally by J. C. Clarke and that he raised his family and lived for many years near Ernesttown.

Joseph Purdy, Son of David and Abigail

Among our letters, one from Elva May Hobbs, Jacob Purdy's granddaughter, dated May 3, 1962, lists the children of Joseph Purdy as Jacob, John, Samuel, Sarah and Eliza. This family being indicated as such by Elva May's mother, Millie. Elsewhere as written under Samuel D. Purdy, Joseph's brother, we note that Joseph and Samuel married daughters of Samuel Lockwood. Joseph married Minerva Lockwood. From the same source is other information relating that Samuel and Joseph lived near each other for many years and were well known and written up by J. C. Clarke in his diary. Elva Mae Hobbs reports that she has an obituary that reports Joseph's daughter, Eliza married David Rankin and they had four children as follows: Anthony McQuin Rankin, M.P.E., Dr. W.H. Rankin, Brooklyn N.Y., Mrs. Ida Losel, Kingston, and Mrs. R. J. Bushell, Kingston.

Quotes from J. C. Clarke diary regarding Joseph Purdy's family
 "March 6, 1853, Mr. Hiram McQuin and Miss Sarah Lucinda, daughter of Mr. Joseph Purdy of Ernesttown, married at evening." "Oct. 28, 1858, Mr. David Purdy, son of Mr. Joseph Purdy of Ernesttown and



Miss Rachael Ann Switzer married by the Rev. J. Law". J. C. Clarke January 29, 1859 "I wrote a deed and memorial for Mr. Joseph Purdy by his son David" "June 18, 1861, Mr. Jacob Purdy, Jr., son of Mr. Joseph D. Purdy of Ernesttown and Miss Nancy McDonald, daughter of James McDonald, Esq., of Fredericksburgh, formerly of the township of Kingston, married." Further quotes from J. C. Clarke diary: "March 24, 1862, Mr. Joseph Purdy of Portland lost one of his infant twin children called Alfred. Surviving child Albert died same day! Apparently this family or its descendants may be located in Portland, Oregon.

Joseph Purdy, the son of David and Abigail, according to Dr. Burleigh's notes was baptised on March 19, 1812 in Ernesttown at Saint John's Church and he drew his land the last of all the family on February 5, 1835.

There is some confusion in the J. C. Clarke notes about the family of David and Abigail and the families of David Purdy's three brothers, Gilbert, Micajah and Samuel who settled in Kingston.

Jacob Purdy 29

This son of David and Abigail according to Dr. Burleigh was baptised at St. John's Church, Ernesttown on March 19, 1812 and drew his land in 1836. He married Miss Amelia Fretz on March 26, 1840, after his first wife's death and with 7 children, married Miss Hannah Fraser, daughter of Mr. Daniel Fraser of York Road on December 26, 1855. Jacob formerly of Ernesttown settled and raised his first family at Clark.

Jacob and John, his brother, married Fretz sisters, Amelia and Anne from Fredericksburg. A third sister, Aurilla married Joseph Rose and one daughter, Mary Louisa married Lewis Purdy of Brighton, a son of John Purdy and his wife Anna. Mary Louisa's mother and Lewis's mother were Fretz sisters.

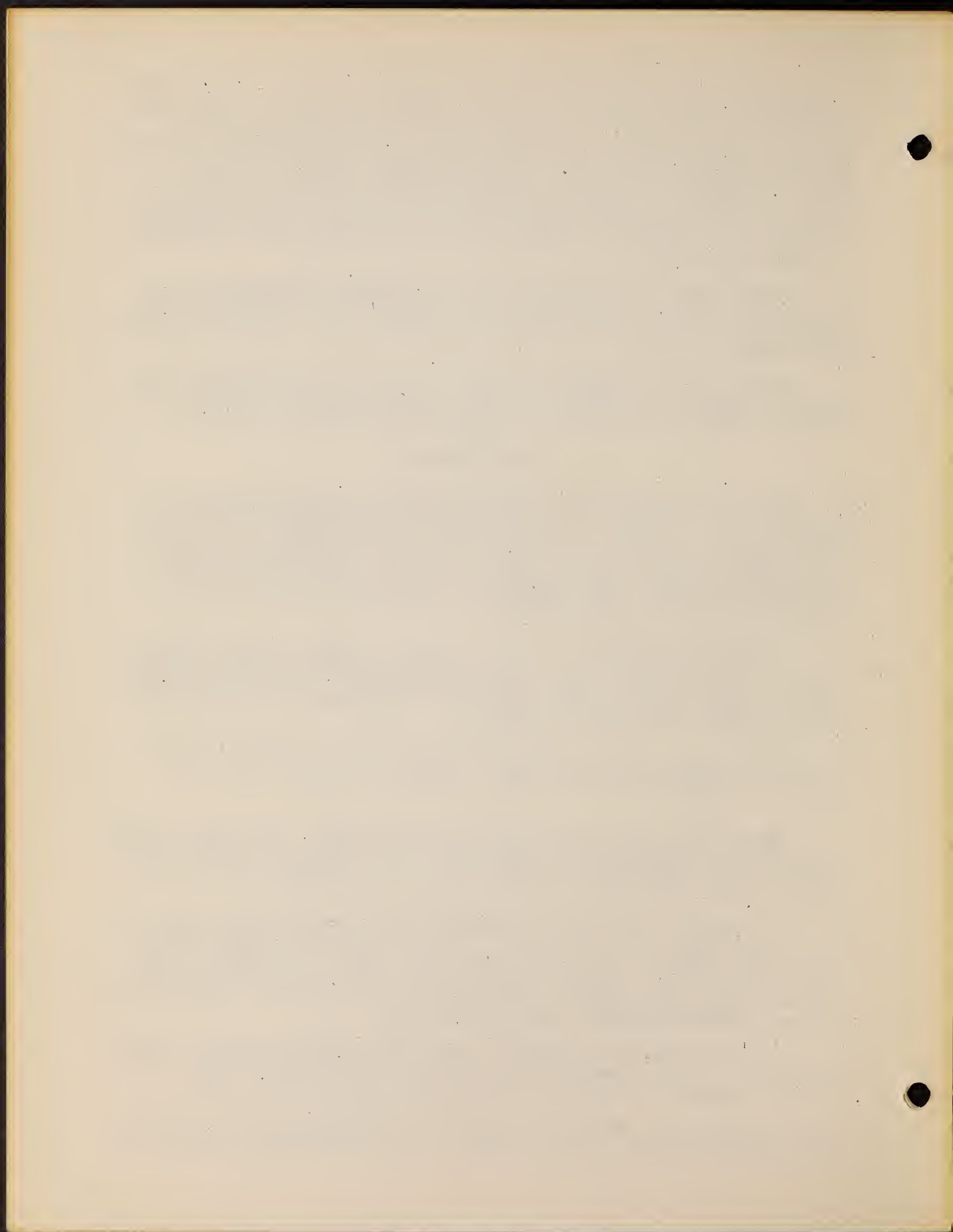
John Solomon Rose, a brother of Mary Louisa, married Amelia Purdy, a daughter of Jacob above. Amelia's daughter Elva May married a Hobbs.

Here then is Elva Mae Hobbs, a granddaughter of Jacob Purdy to whom we owe a great deal for any success of this study. By reading her letters, incorporated herein, you will find much about Jacob Purdy and his descendants and the Purdys in general.

Of special note regarding Jacob Purdy's family is the fact that Elva Mae Hobbs, still living and with an excellent memory, also her mother ahead of her Amelia Rose took a keen interest in Purdy genealogy and have gathered many facts. Elva May's mother knew Gilbert Purdy, her father Jacob's brother, very well. She provides a very important missing link to his life.

Later we learn that Amelia, Elva May's mother, Jacob's daughter, had a sister Jane Ann, who married Ridley Purdy, widower of Sidney. Ridley's father, John Purdy was a brother of Jacob.

As mentioned, due to the help and knowledge of Mrs. Elva May Hobbs, you can find in her letters a very comprehensive outline of

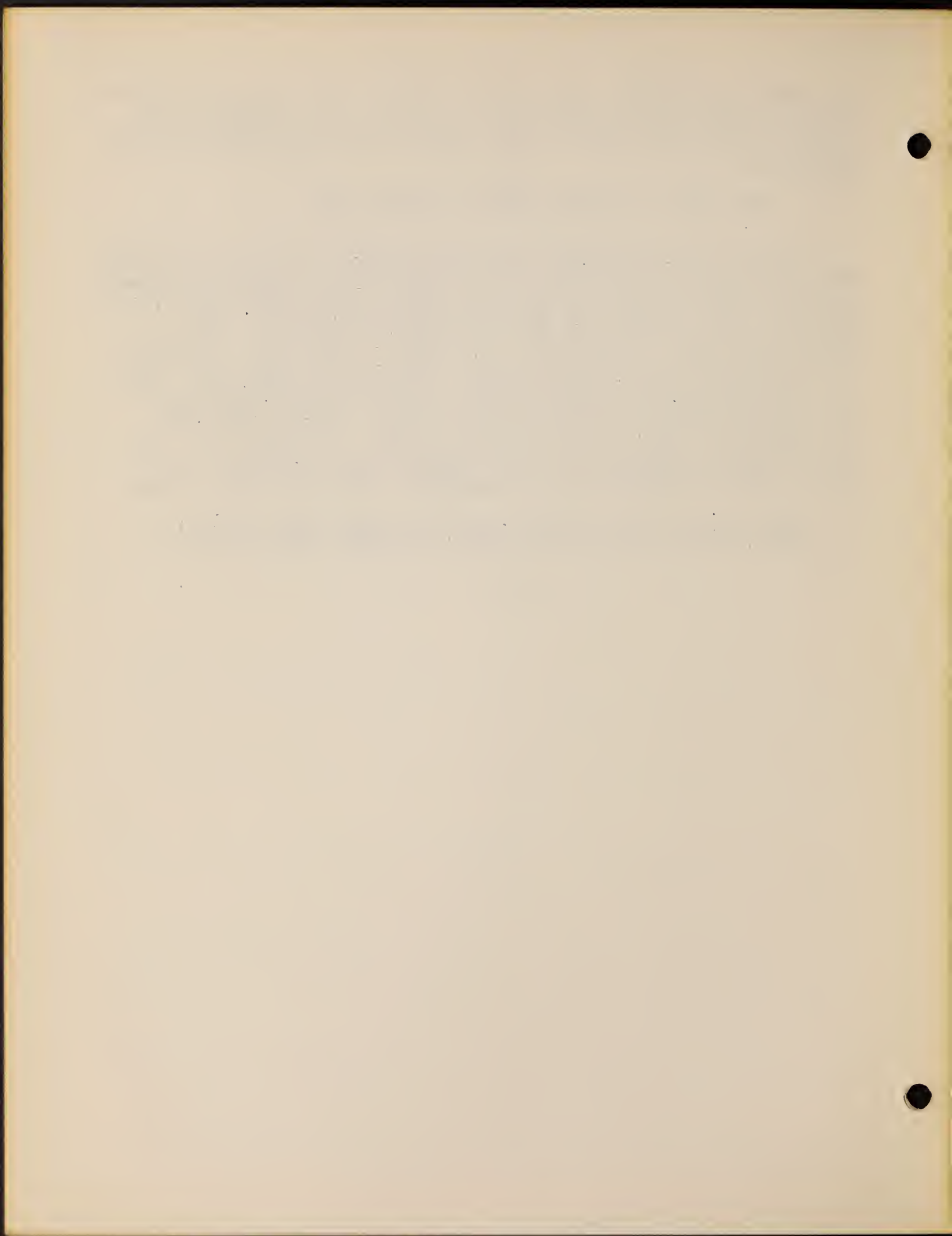


the Jacob Purdy family. Due to the letters of Emma Purdy, the writer's mother and the help of many others, we have a good outline of the family of John Purdy and his wife, Anna Fretz. All others of David Purdy's family are written up very briefly on account of the lack of information.

Mary Purdy, Elizabeth Purdy, Micajah Purdy

Very little information is as yet available concerning the above three children of David Purdy and Abigail Ostrom. Dr. H. C. Burleigh of Bath, has furnished the following which he has gleaned from various sources. From "Records of 1844" Dr. Burleigh states that "Elizabeth married a Mr. Woodward. He died and she married again. Mary married an Abbott. He died and she married an Ellerbeck. From Elva Mae Hobb's letter of March 15, 1962 we learn that Mary's first husband was John Abbott. After he died she married an Ellerbec. Their two children were James and Charlie. My mother's letters speak of John and Mary Abbott as cousins who were well known. Again from Dr. Burleigh's study we learn that all three were baptised at St. John's Church, Bath, according to the records, Micajah on Feb. 10, 1794, Betsey (Elizabeth) Feb. 16, 1795 and Mary on Feb. 20, 1803. Micajah drew his land in 1820; Elizabeth in 1817 and Mary in 1820.

Information about Micajah, the son of David and Abigail, is confused with that of David's brother, Micajah, from New York.



Family Outline of John Purdy and Anna Fretz Purdy Children 30

On previous pages we have listed historical and other data relative to the first Purdys in Canada. Much of this material heretofore has been gathered and compiled by Dr. H. C. Burleigh, a historian for the United Empire Loyalists, also by H. Pierson Gundy, Chief Librarian of Queen's University of Kingston. Very valuable data was furnished by Elva May Hobbs and others as noted elsewhere.

The following material has been gathered mostly by John W. Masten and his wife Hazel Estelle. John W. is the son of Emma J. Purdy, one of this family in question. Many old family letters and an old family album of the grandmother, Anna Purdy, have been a valuable help. Many letters from descendants are included or used for material.

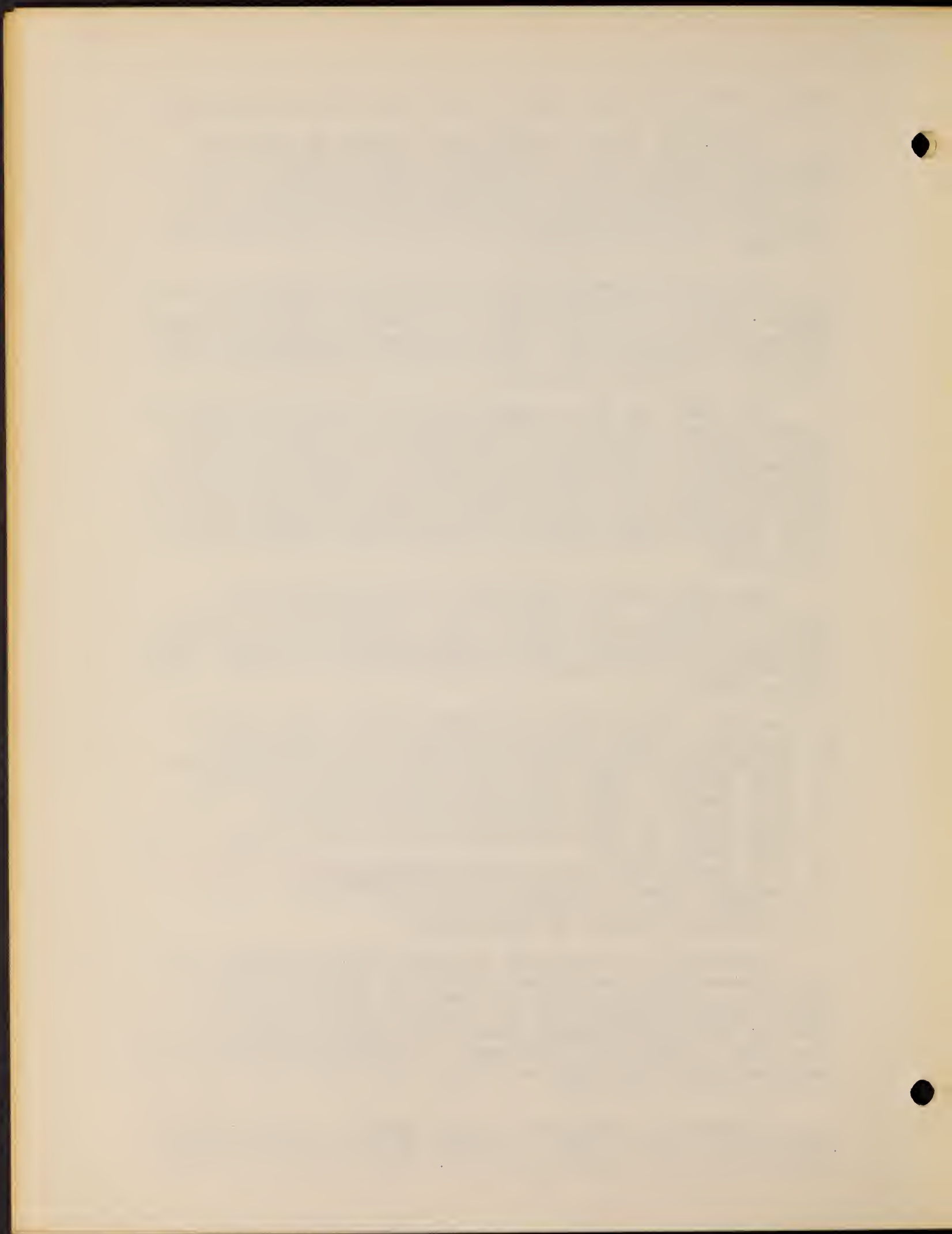
John Purdy was the youngest of six sons of David Purdy and Abigail Ostrom. He was raised between Collins Bay and Bath (first known as Ernesttown) on the last lot No. 42, Township of Ernesttown. This parcel was within the first tract given Michael Grass to divide among the very first settlers under him including David and Gilbert Purdy who came down from Sorel in 1783. The old stone house built by David and his wife Abigail still stands on this property. John was one of nine to be raised here.

John Purdy married Anna Fretz of Fredericksburg and settled in Sidney. Anna Fretz's sister Amelia married Jacob Purdy, a brother next to John in age. Much parallel information is compiled by Elva Mae Hobbs, a granddaughter of Jacob. These brothers who married sisters and their families were well known to one another.

- A. Daughter, Maturia Purdy 1833-1922 married James Vrooman.
- B. Son, Lew A. Purdy 1834-1911 married Mary Louisa Rose.
- C. Daughter, W. Purdy on Dec. 28, 1859 married James Freeman.
- D. Son, Ralph W. Purdy 1840-1907 married Sarah M. Palmer.
- E. Son, Samuel L. Purdy 1842-1907 married Mary Eliza Palmer.
- F. Son, David J. Purdy -1899 married Ada Greenleaf.
- G. Son, Ridley M. Purdy 1846-1936 married Annie Ireland, second wife Jennie Purdy.
- H. Son, Charles Purdy 1851- married ~~Maud~~ Mary E. Mc Connell
- I. Daughter, Emma J. Purdy 1853-1887 married Wm. W. Masten.
- J. Daughter, Elizabeth Purdy, died young.
- K. Son, Phillip Purdy, no information.

According to the obituary of Maturia Purdy Vrooman, found with Vrooman and Oakes letters elsewhere, there were eleven children. According to Will M. Purdy now living, a son of Ridley Purdy, Elizabeth was the youngest child. There is authentic information from a number of sources including letters from Emma J. Purdy that John Purdy, her father was born in 1803 and died 1863. Also that her mother, Anna Fretz Purdy was born in 1813 and died in 1902.

Information concerning C is not complete. Under date of December 28, 1859 in the J. C. Clarke diary is the following item. "Mr. James Freeman and Miss W. Purdy, daughter of John



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Purdy, Esq., both of Brighton, married by the Rev. W. S. Scott, Wesleyan Methodist." If she married in 1859 we will assume her age fits her into the No. 3 child born between 1837 and 1839 which, of course, is only conjecture.

No. K, Phillip Purdy does not belong here or anywhere we know about. His picture is in the old family album as a young man of mature age. Nothing is known of him.

A Maturia Purdy Vrooman 1833-1922

A. I. Son William James Vrooman married Sarah Ann Ogilvie

Their home was mostly in Wisconsin.

I. William was born in 1860 and died in 1912. His wife Sarah was born in 1860 and died in 1937. They had five children.

- a. John Robert 1885-1925 not married.
- b. William George 1886-1887 lived 13 months.
- c. Arthur Fetchel 1889-1958 married May Ross, no children.
- d. Reginald James 1892-- still living married 1920 to Louise Harriet Southwich born 1897, still living. Children--Ralph DeWitt born 1920 married Blanche McCall---children Nancy, James, Jack. Live in Florida.
- e. Maud Ogilvie Vrooman born 1896 living, never married. A high school teacher of P.E. in Wisconsin, now retired.

Note: Among the letters, one from Maud Vrooman gives careful description to this family.

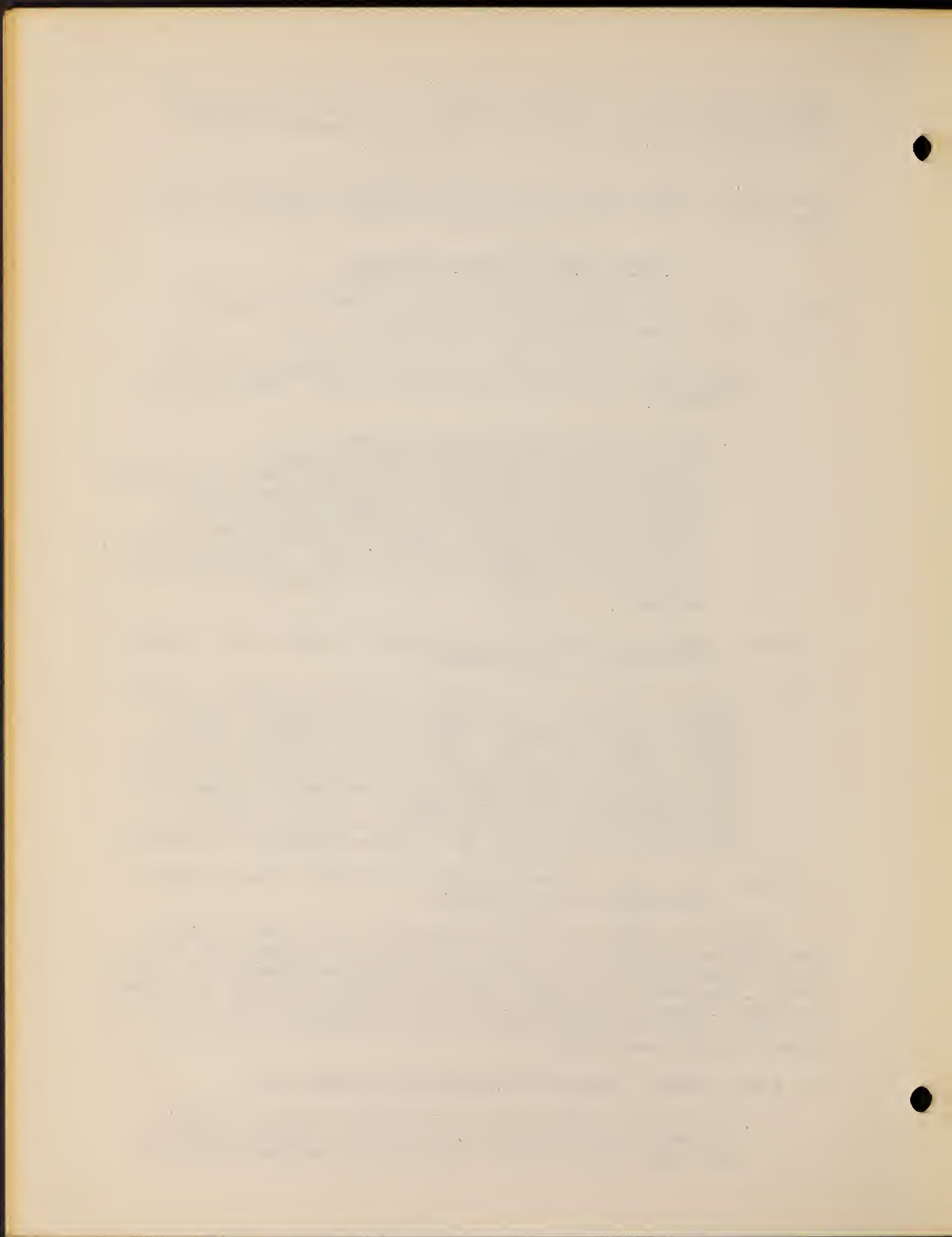
A. II. Daughter Mary Lillian Vrooman of Maturia Vrooman married George E. Oakes. Their home was in Brighton, Ontario. Mary Lillian was born at Ferry Point, Prince Edward County, April 10, 1869. She died in Brighton, Ontario, Dec. 30, 1935. She married G. E. Oakes, May 13th, 1889. The children of this family are Ione Oakes of Toronto, never married, a retired teacher. Mrs. H. Oakley, Mrs. Richard Shortall and G. E. Oakes, druggist in Toronto. Mary Lillian was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetary at Brighton.

Note: Among the letters, one from Ione Oakes gives careful description of this family.

There were only two children raised in the James Vrooman family as described above under William James Vrooman and under Mary Lillian Vrooman. Two other children were drowned when quite young. Elsewhere are letters and descriptive material about the Vroomans. James H. Vrooman, father of these two, died at Trenton in 1894. His wife Maturia died in 1922 at Brighton with the Oakes, thirty years later.

B. Lew A. Purdy 1834-1911 Married Mary Louisa Rose

I. Ida Rose May Purdy was born January, 1862 and died at 14 years of age in 1876. She died of Typhoid fever. The large stone in Mt. Hope Cemetary was erected for her



and all the family is buried in this plot now.

- II. Francis J. S. a son was born, March 28, 1864 and died May 2, 1883. He went to the Klondike and due to exposure got rheumatic fever. His sister Maud brought him back home to die.
- III. Frederick Ogilvie Palmerton Purdy called Fred was born July 26th, 1874 and died of typhoid on Sept. 19, 1905.
- IV. Eva Maud Purdy was born in 1877 and died in 1957. Maud took care of her mother and ran a millinary store in Brighton and Toronto. She was well known by Ione Oakes and the Oakes Family. Her special friend was Fanny Mallory who died this year, 1962, in Toronto. Fanny helped me find Elva Mae Hobbs who is closely related to Mary Rose, her father being a brother.
Elva Mae's mother "Millie" is a daughter of Jacob Purdy a brother of my grandfather John Purdy. Elva Mae's letters solved the problem of the Lew A. Purdy family. Ione Oakes helped me with Fanny Mallory's address. Elsewhere is found the close interrelationship between the Rose's, Fritz family and Purdys.
- V. Harry Claude Purdy was born in 1883 and died in 1961. Mrs. Hobbs says Harry Claude died of pneumonia in Toronto General Hospital at age 77 in the spring of 1961. Harry at one time was wealthy. "My two sons, my brother and a friend of Harry's were bearers. Harry's wife was Helen Fraser daughter of Anastasia Nix and Reuben Fraser. She is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetary, Brighton."

There are no decendants of this family and its five children. There is a beautiful head stone in a plot surrounded by a wrought iron fence containing all these bodies at Mt. Hope Cemetary in Brighton. Grandma Anna Purdy is buried there likewise. Elsewhere among letters is information about Lew A. Purdy, the wealthiest Purdy of the family, in his day.

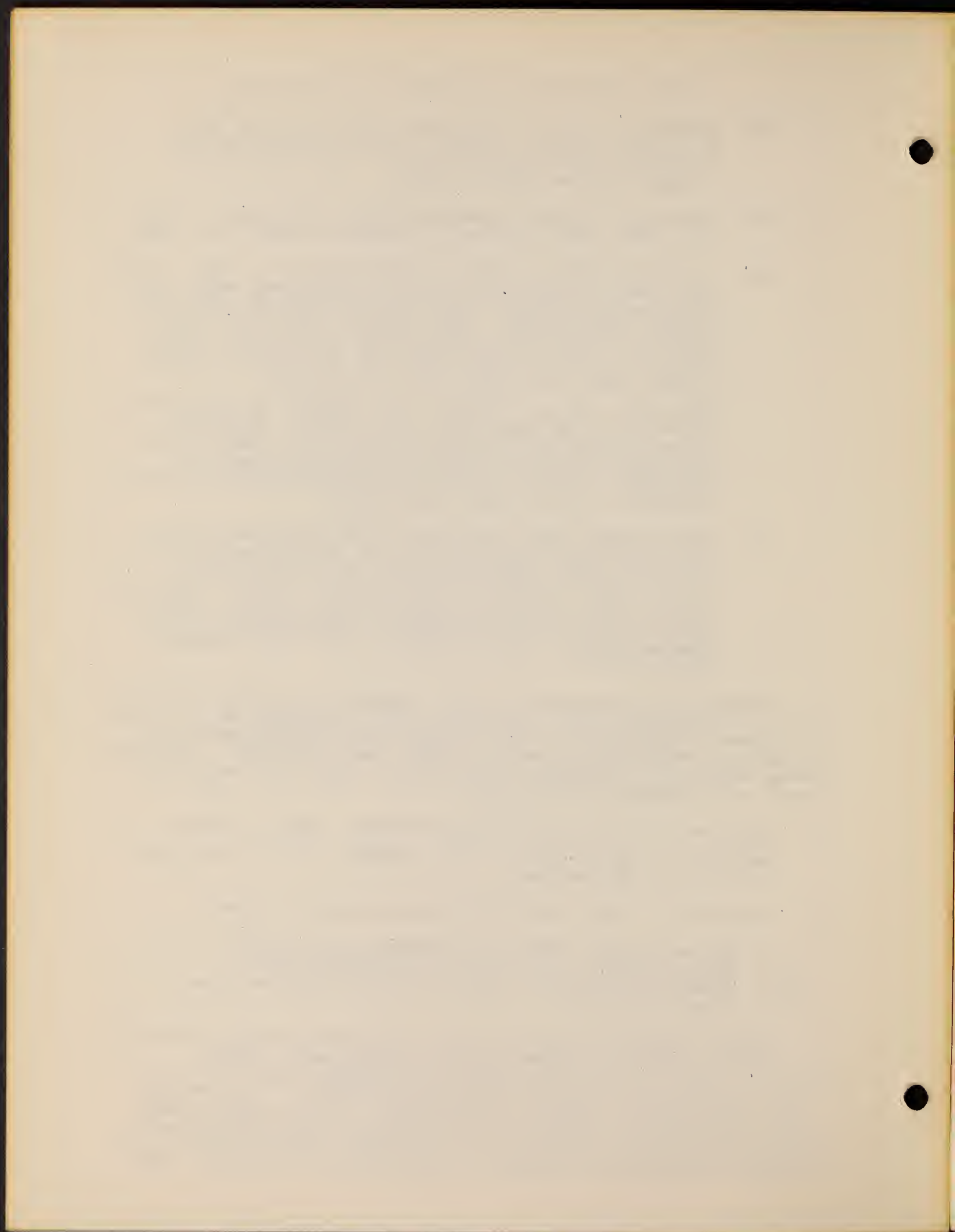
C. Daughter W. Purdy married James Freeman Dec. 28, 1859.

The story is very brief of this daughter. She is mentioned in the J. C. Clarke Diary.

D. Son Ralph W. Purdy 1840-1907 married Sarah M. Palmer.

- I. Helen Florence (Nellie) Scribner--age 92--1962.
- II. Effie Gertrude--87 years old--living--single.
- III. Homer Burton (Burt) would be 82 if living but died many years ago.

Nellie Francis as she was called was born in 1870 on Feb. 11, in Trenton. Effie Gertrude was born in Hastings, Canada, Dec. 11, 1874. Homer Burton was born in Iowa, 1876, died in 1913 at age of 37. Nellie married Nat Thompson. They had one child, Ralph Purdy Thompson now deceased. Effie taught kindergarten in Superior, Wisconsin for 30 years. Homer Burton had two children, Lillian and Irene, both living and both Nuns. One in Villa Scholastica (College St. Scholastica) in Duluth. The



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other in Brainerd, Minnesota in a hospital. Nellie's son Ralph married Rose Anderson. They had two sons, Ralph Purdy Thompson, Jr. and little Howard who died at an early age. Ralph Thompson married Marion _____. They have two adopted children, a boy 7 and a girl 5. They live in Chicago.

Further information about the Ralph W. Purdy family may be obtained from the letters of Effie Purdy and Maude Vrooman.

E. Son Samuel L. Purdy of John & Anna 1842-1930 married Mary Eliza Palmer

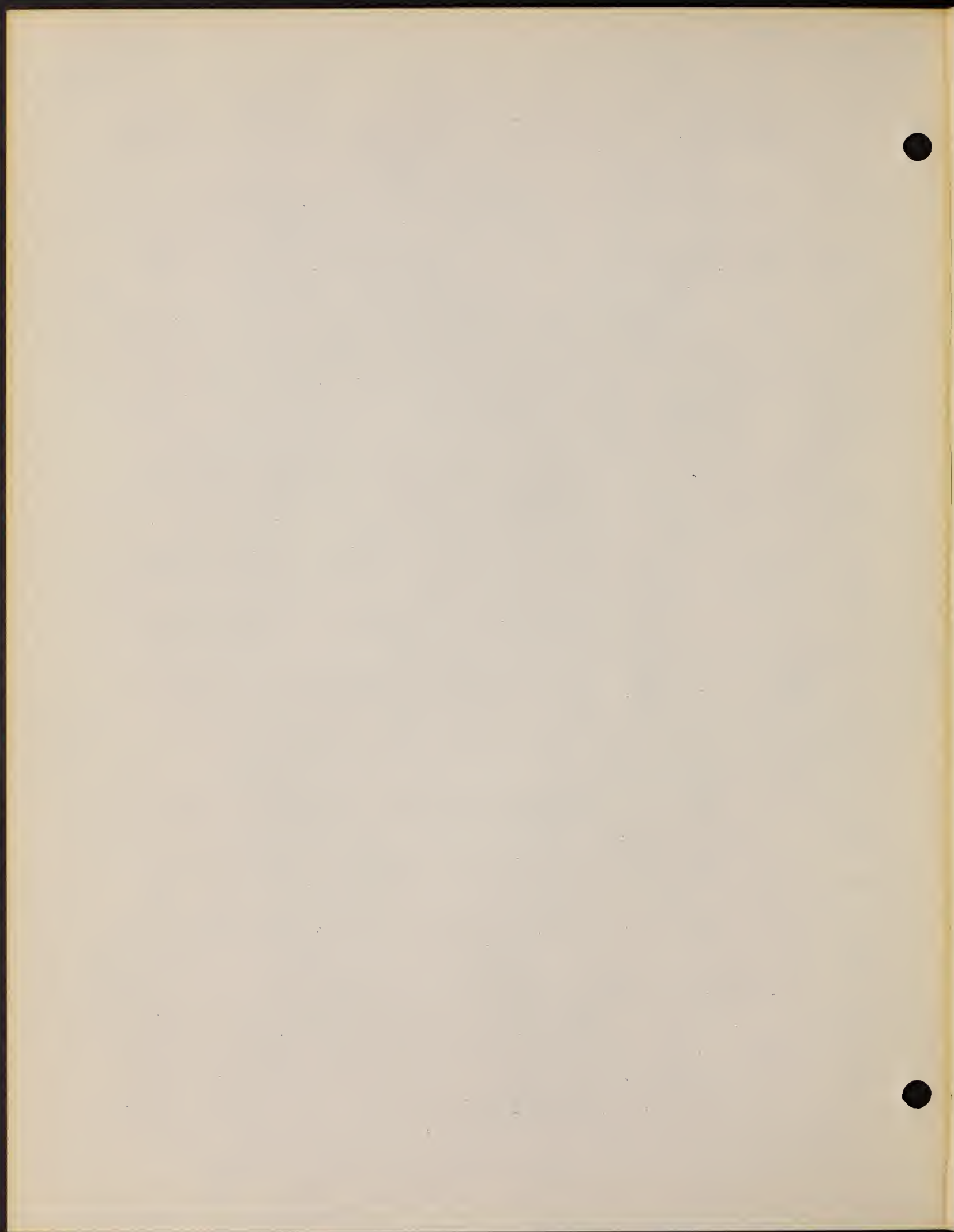
I. Lewis Purdy oldest son of Samuel married a Papanoff.

Lewis Purdy was the eldest son of Samuel L. Purdy. I have little information about him. He was for some time in the lumber business with his father Sam at Coe Hill. Later he was in the milling business with his sons Harold and Claude at Kingston. At his death he owned extensive properties around Kingston.

- a. Harold Purdy married Lena _____. He died in 1961. His wife lives at 8 Kensington Ave., Kingston. Their children were Beverly who married Colonel J.S. Hitsman, a doctor in the Canadian Air Force and Douglas J. Purdy of R. R. 1, Bath, Ontario who is married and who with his wife Jo Ann has three children, Beth, Susan and John. They live on a purebred Hereford stock farm.
- b. Albert Edward Purdy of Belleville is married and have an adopted son. "Bert" is in the feed mill business.
- c. Mrs. C. S. Allyea (Helen) of Trenton is married and with her husband are jewelers in Trenton. They have one son who is a jeweler in Ottawa.
- d. Gordon Purdy is a teacher in Tronto. He is married and they have a family.
- e. Claude V. Purdy is a clothier in Kingston. He and his wife Olive both manage separate Youth Center Stores. They have one daughter named Suzanne.
- f. Lou's family included an Edward Albert Purdy who died young and is buried in Castleton Cemetary (1872-82).
- g. Lou's family included a daughter Mary Alice 1880-82 also buried at Castleton.

E. Children of Samuel L. Purdy

- II. Walter Purdy, Sam's second son 1877-1958. Walter was in the lumber business with his brother Lou and father Sam at Coe Hill. He lived mostly at Peterborough, Ontario. He is buried in Castleton Cemetary. His wife Eva Mae Purdy nee _____ is still living at 5551 Reid St., Peterborough. They raised three children who are married and have families.



II. Children of Walter Purdy and Eva Mae Purdy

- a. William Walter Purdy lives at 140 Burnham St., Belleville, Ontario. He owns the Smith Bus Line there and likewise in the sawmill business near Coe Hill. His wife's name is Hazel and they have two children.
- b. Agnes Purdy Vokes lives in Ottawa. Her husband is in the Canadian Government Dept. of Northern Affairs in charge of marketing for the Eskimos. They have two children.
- c. Grace Marion Purdy Garton married Clare Garton of Box 809 Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada. Mr. Garton is retired. He has been in the bus transportation business. He has relatives in Sacramento, California

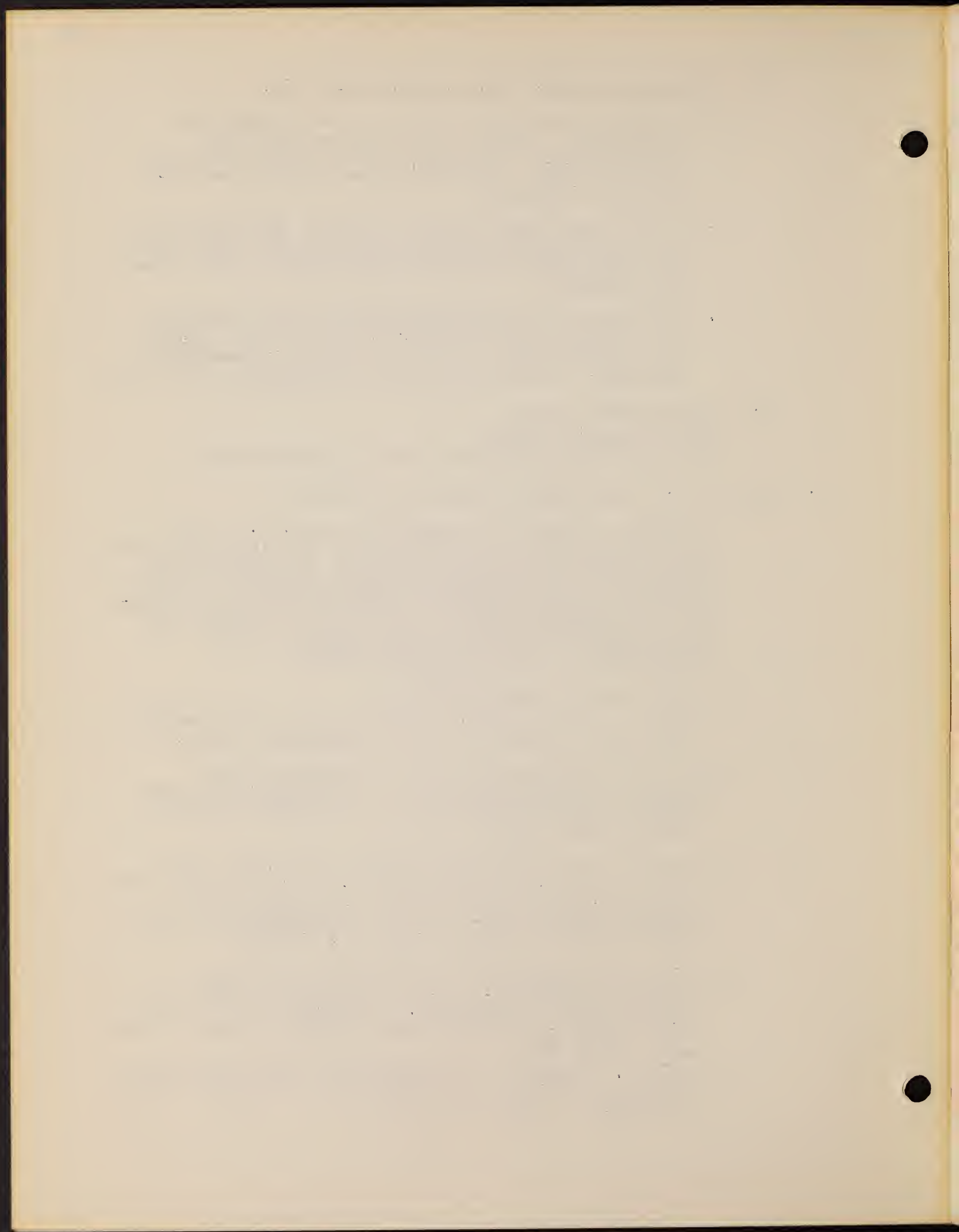
II. Walter Purdy Family

- a-b-c Walter's family
- 1-2-3-etc. grand children of Walter and Eva Mae

E. III. S. W. (Will) Purdy Family of Castleton

Referring to Samuel L's family his son S. W. "Will" as he was called lived most of his life time at the old family home and mill at Castleton. He married Miss Maud Gaffield, the daughter of Nathan Gaffield also of Castleton and Cramahe. Maud's mother was the daughter of Elizabeth Gerero. Will was born in 1882 and died in 1919 at age 37 leaving to his wife the responsibility of raising this family.

- a. Marion Francis Purdy Hardon.
Marion is now deceased. 1. She has a son managing owner of a grocery business at Bendmore, Ontario.
- b. Marjorie Purdy Dudley and her husband are both teachers. Their address is 17 Mennewawa St., Port Credit. They have a family. Their eldest daughter was married in 1962.
- c. Beatrice Elizabeth Purdy married Carl Elmer Purdy, a son of Will M. Purdy of Toronto. Carl is Commandant of the R.C.D.C. School. A colonel in the Royal Canadian Dental Corps. Carl is a grandson of Ridley Purdy who is a brother of Samuel L. Purdy.
- d. Samuel L. Purdy the only son of Will and Maud and grandson of Samuel L., Sr., now lives at 7022 Saybrook Ave., Philadelphia. He works for the Tide-water Grain Co., and has been in the milling business most of his life.
- e. Donald F. Purdy of 97 Chestnut Hill Pkway, Islington, Toronto is I think the youngest in the family. He is a teacher.



E. Samuel L. Purdy family continued. Samuel Son of John & Anna

IV. The fourth member of Sam's family was the only daughter, Anna Purdy who married Dr. Mather of Belleville. The doctor became quite wealthy and they had a lovely home in Belleville. They never had any children. The letters of Eva Mae Purdy of Peterborough give additional information about this the only daughter of Samuel L. Purdy.

F. The family of David J. Purdy, son of John and Anna. Among my mother's letters and in direct correspondence with relatives of David's wife, Ada Greenleaf Purdy and by having actually known Ada Greenleaf Purdy, I am able to give some history of this branch of the family. Letters from my mother tell of the death of three children of David and Ada named Maggie, Carrie and Dan at an early age. David's son George lived to adulthood, he was a farmer and merchant, married Hattie Flint and raised a family as follows. George was buried at Rockford, Iowa.

F. David Purdy and Ada Greenleaf

I. George Purdy Family

- a. Harold Purdy oldest son died in San Antonio, Texas. "Lorna Bishop" his wife returned to teaching.
- b. Marie Purdy Berry the only daughter now is the widow of William Berry, a college professor.
- c. Richard Purdy is the head of the Department of Mathematics of Alameda State College.
- d. Flint Purdy is the Chief Librarian at Detroit Public Library.

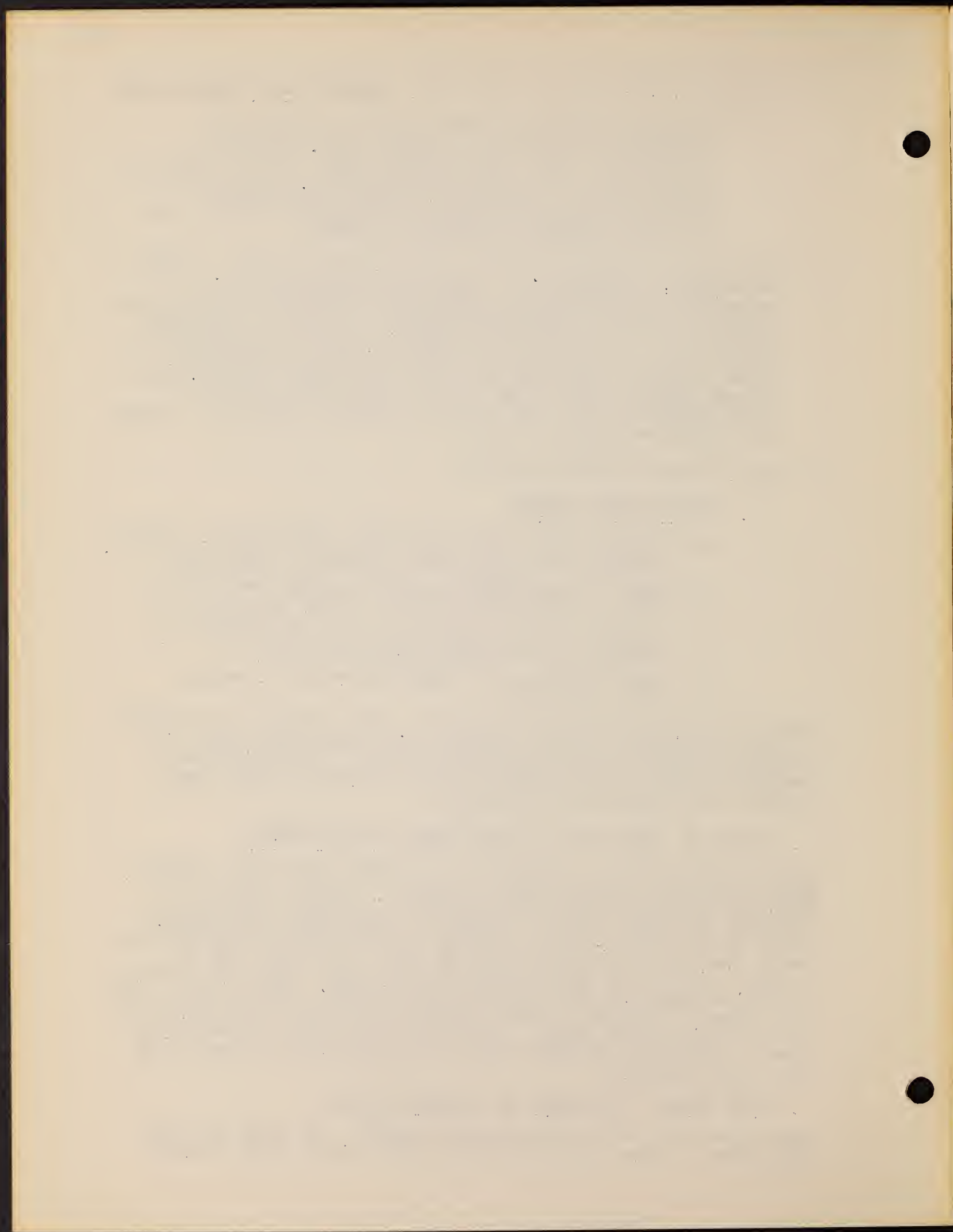
Family letters give other information. The writers are indebted to Mrs. Jay Lorenz of 211 N. Adams Ave., Mason City, Iowa and her sister Mrs. Clara Bate Geddinas of 95 S. Hollister Ave., Pasadena, California for much of the information about David Purdy's son, George and his family.

G. Ridley M. Purdy Son of John Purdy and Anna Fretz

Ridley Purdy had four children by his first wife Annie Ireland. These were Fred, Harry, Lillie and Will. He had one son, Don Purdy by his second wife Jennie Purdy, a cousin. She was a daughter of Jacob Purdy, a brother of John Purdy and Ridley's uncle on his father's side. Ridley was 17 when his father died. He was the only one left at home to help his mother and my mother, his sisten, then a girl 10 years old. Ridley's efforts on the old farm for 10 years endeared him very much to his sister and mother. Capable and self sacrificing he kept his sister in school and the farm going. Later the mother and sister sacrificed a great deal to help Ridley with his sick wife Annie and their four children.

I. Fred Purdy, the Eldest of Ridley's Family

Fred lived most of his life around Trenton. We have seen his farm home, a large brick building on the Wooler Road, perhaps



4-5 miles from Trenton. An old mill is across the road. The farm was previously owned by Will Purdy, Ridley's youngest son who bought it from Dr. Frank Day of Trenton. The Days were cousins, Mrs. Eliza Jane Day being a daughter of Samuel D., a brother of our John Purdy. Fred was a musician. He died July 31, 1934 at his home on Wooler Road at age 52 and is buried in North Trenton Cemetary. He had one son. 31

II. Second child Harry

Harry Purdy never married. He was in the police force for some time and the writer understood never fully recovered from a serious injury. Around 1909 he visited us in Klamath Falls, Oregon and worked on my father's ranch there. He was then 35-40 years old. The writer remembers him as a quite unassuming man who had little to say and seemed to be recovering slowly from some unfortunate accident.

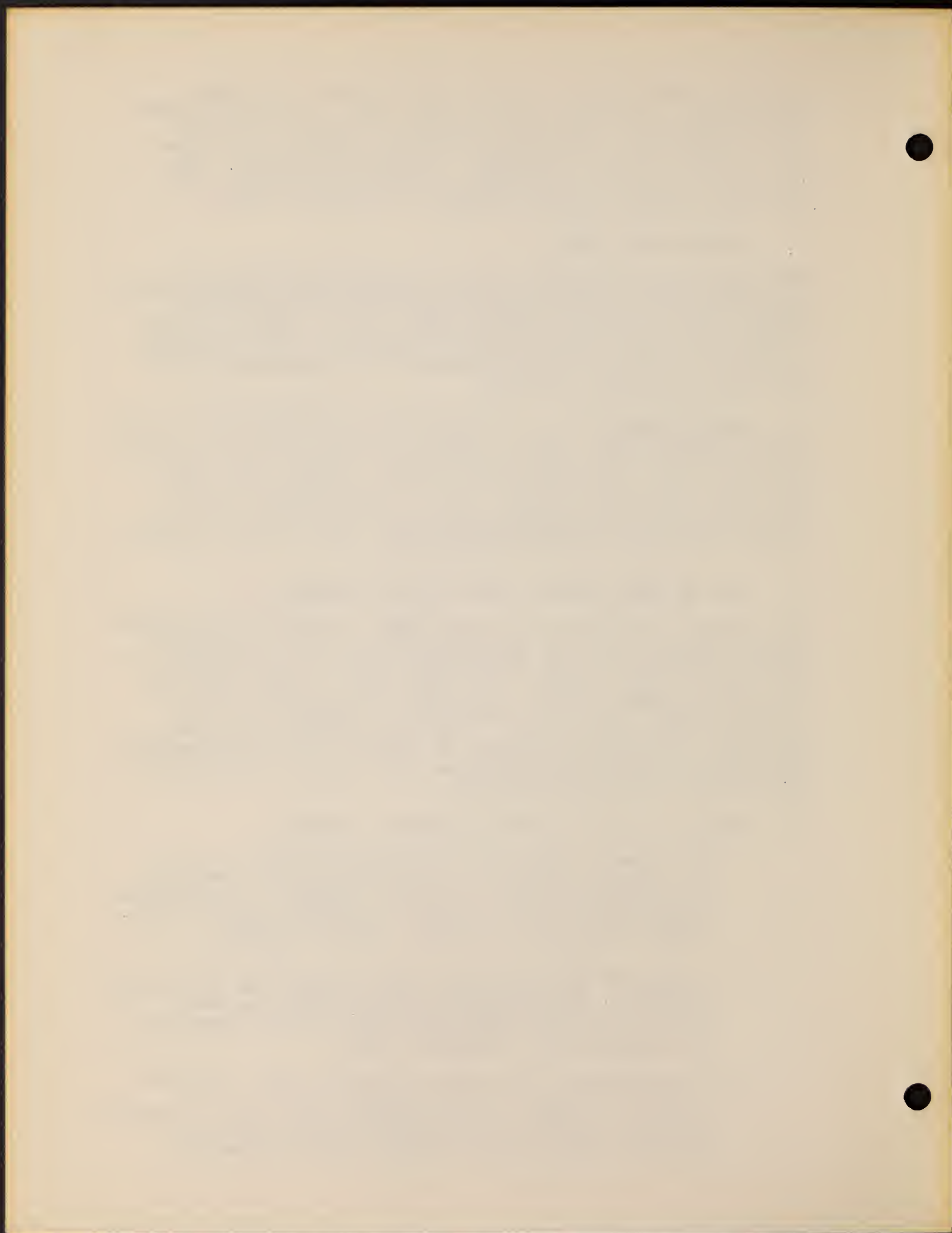
III. Lillie Purdy was the only daughter of Ridley and his wife Annie Ireland Purdy. Will V. Purdy of Trenton, the only living brother of this family of first cousins of the writer, told me that his sister was killed when driving a cutter across the railroad tracks near Trenton. She was a young woman in her late 20's or early 30's at the time. Mrs. Ella May Hobbs, a cousin knew her and likewise Ione Oaks. Their letters mention her as a pleasant, talented young woman.

IV. Will Mosgrave Purdy, fourth child of Ridley. 32

This family is written up in more detail elsewhere also through letters of his daughter, Winnifred Ellis. Will and his wife, Audrey Hagerman are still living and reside at 65 Keewatin St., Apt. 214, Toronto, Canada. The writer and his wife visited a number of times with Will and his wife in August, 1961 and learned a great deal about the Purdys in general and about Will's family in particular. Will was a farmer and a real estateman. Although the family of five was born mostly around Trenton they came to Toronto at an early age and all graduated from college or business schools.

IV. Family of Will M. Purdy and Audrey Hagerman

- a. Dr. Vern W. Purdy, the eldest son was born in 1899. His daughter Pamela was recently married. Vern is well known dentist in Toronto, Canada. He was recently remarried. His offices are in the Medical Arts Bldg., 170 St. George St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- b. Lorne, second son was born in 1901. Lorne is a druggist. He owns several drug stores, one in Toronto and one in Bancelridge, Ontario. There are twin children in the Lorne Purdy family, a son named Bill, an engineer and a daughter, Susan.
- c. Winifred Ellis nee Purdy was born in 1903. Winifred has three children. One, Howard lives with his mother. Another, Jean is married and lives at Oakville. Winifred lives at 23 Las Calles in Toronto. She married a second time to George Allen, a broker.



Before marriage she finished normal school and taught 4-5 years. Winifred is a private secretary to the Chief Horticulturist in the Canadian Government Offices at Toronto.

- d. Effie Purdy born in 1909, the second daughter was a secretary in Toronto when she met and married Dr. Fryer, Public Health Supervisor for the State of Michigan at Lansing. Two daughters named Wendy and Linda are living, one is married.
- e. Dr. Carl Elmer Purdy is a colonel in the Royal Canadian Dental Corps., Commandent of the R.C.D.C. School. The youngest son, he was born in 1910. The address of the home is given as Mrs. Carl E. Purdy, 26 Wolcheron, Loop, Camp Borden, Ontario, Canada. His wife Bernice has several children. She is a daughter of Mrs. Maud Purdy whose husband Will, now deceased, is a son of Samuel L. Purdy.

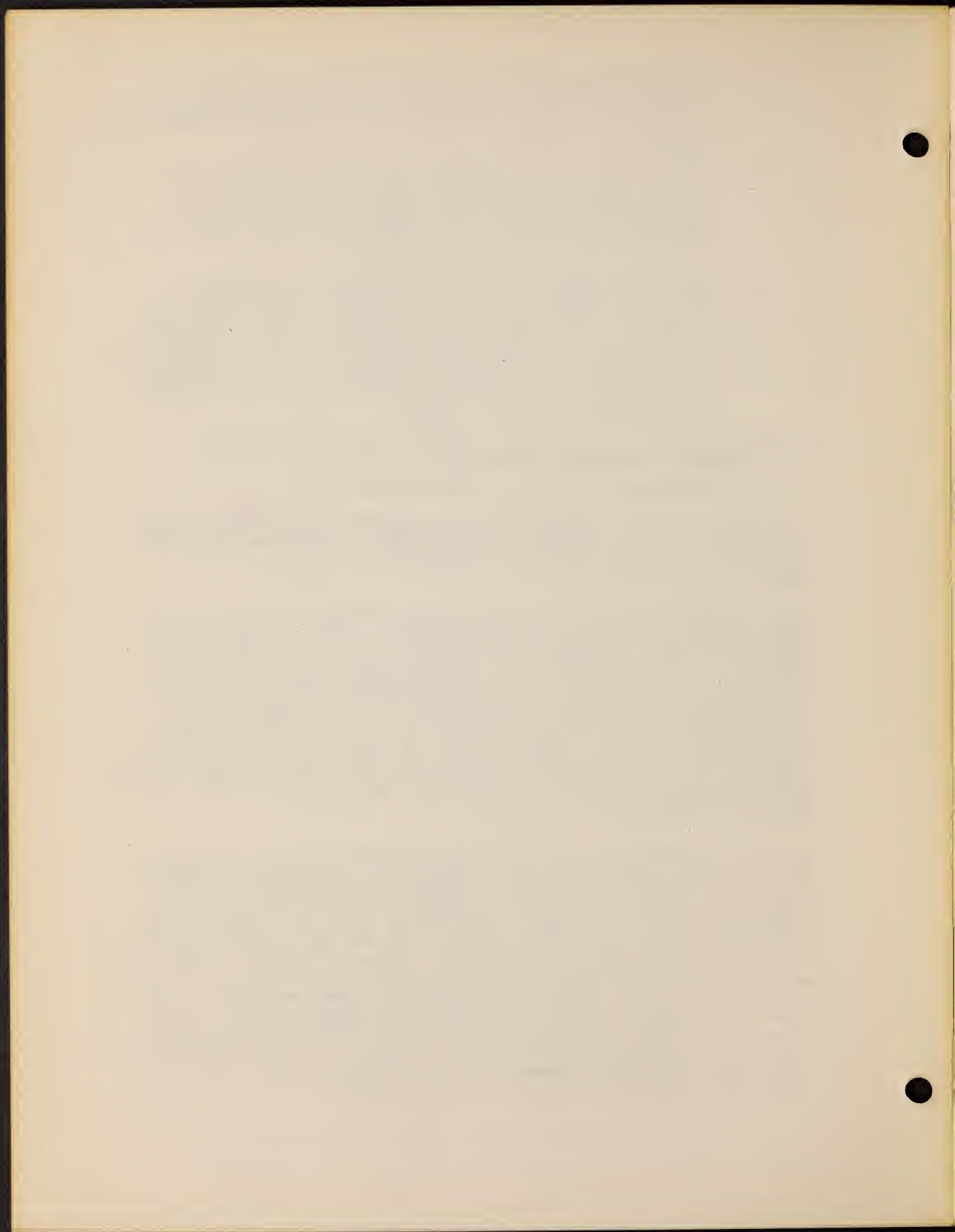
H. Charles Purdy, the eighth child of John & Anna Purdy

(Information will be supplied later) 33

I. Emma J. Purdy, daughter of John and Anna Purdy, ^{was} the youngest child who lived to maturity and is known. This completes the record with 8 quite complete transcripts and three C-J-K incomplete or unknown. 34

Emma J. Purdy was with her mother Anna and Ridley at the old Smithfield farm after her father died in 1863. Ridley was 17 years old then. He remained home for 6 or 7 years before he married. All the others were married and gone. Emma and her mother were inseparable until the daughter's death in 1887, twenty-four years after the father's death. The two remained at Smithfield until late in the 1870's. Emma Purdy married William W. Masten on March 22, 1881 at the home of her brother Charles Purdy in Iowa Falls, Iowa. In 1883 the couple went to Nebraska as early pioneers along the South Dakota border. These were the parents of the writer John W. Masten and his brother Charles F. Masten.

William W. Masten, my father, was a one-armed man. After my mother's death he took we two boys back to our grandparents in Kansas and came to California, landing at San Diego and later landing at Corona in Riverside County. Here we grew up and graduated from high school. After this time our father became interested in a big new irrigation venture out on the Imperial desert of eastern San Diego County. Here he became a farmer and a contractor later owning much property in El Centro, a town in which he built the first building. His farms became very valuable. In 1908 he sold out and moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon where he purchased large farm properties and where he raised horses for the horse market of those days. In the meantime we boys got a broad experience in farm enterprises and later both graduated from the University of California.



I I. John W. Masten, son of Emma and Will Masten.

John W. Masten, the writer was born July 1, 1884 in Holt Co., Nebraska. After his mother's death in 1887 the father, William W. Masten moved to California. John W. Masten was raised in Southern California, he was associated with his father's farm enterprises. He graduated from the University of California in 1913 and later obtained advance degrees there. He was a professor at Fresno State College for 24 years and later became interested in a number of business enterprises.

In 1916 he married Hazel E. Malcolm, also a graduate of the University of California and later a high school teacher. The family of four follows.

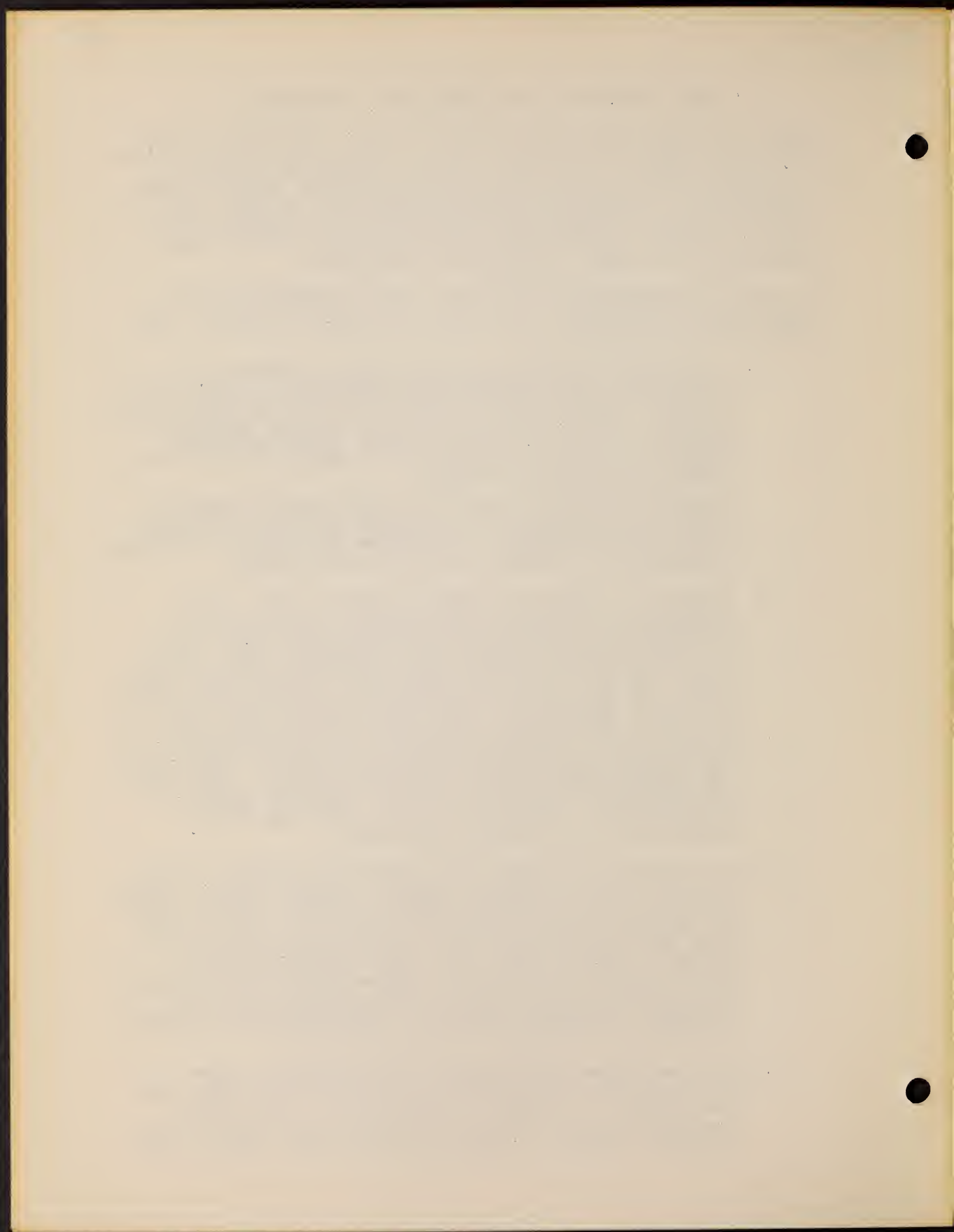
- a. John Malcolm Masten was born in 1919, in Fresno, California. He graduated from Fresno State College and from the Medical School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1944. After 2 years as doctor, an army captain in Germany, he became a specialist in Internal Medicine and at present is President of the Medical Board of the Community Hospital in Fresno.

Malcolm married La Verne Call while attending Medical School in Pennsylvania. They were students at Fresno State College together. They have two daughters, Marilyn and Marlene. La Verne's family is from Maine.

- b. Maybelle J. Masten was born on June 29, 1917. She graduated from Fresno State College, attended the University of California and later spent three years at Bolton School of Nursing in Cleveland, Ohio. When World War II broke out in 1941 she volunteered as a war nurse and was in England then Paris shortly after D-day, and at an army hospital in Liege, Belgium, until the war was over. She became a First Lieutenant in the army. Since the war Maybelle has been at Veterans Hospitals in San Francisco and Fresno, becoming assistant chief nurse and going through all the various positions. Maybelle married Trent Thornhill of an old Southern family of West Virginia. They have 2 sons, Billy and Edwin. Maybelle is a city school nurse now.

- c. William Wallace Masten, the second son of John W. and Hazel was born in 1921 in Fresno. Wallace spent 2 years at Fresno State College. Then he became a pursuit pilot in the Air Force in the fall of 1942. He was with the 10th Air Force "flying the hump" in India, Burma and China for over 60 missions. First Lieutenant Wm. W. Masten married Betty _____ at Luke Field, Arizona as he got his wings in the fall of 1942. Wallace owns and operates a laundry in Fresno. They have three children. Johnnie now in college and Kathy and Carol.

- d. Lillian Louise Masten graduated from Fresno State College after her marriage to Ray Jensen and after her war service as a WAVE was about over. Louise was a specialist recruiter and although the only one of the children without a commission became very active in her



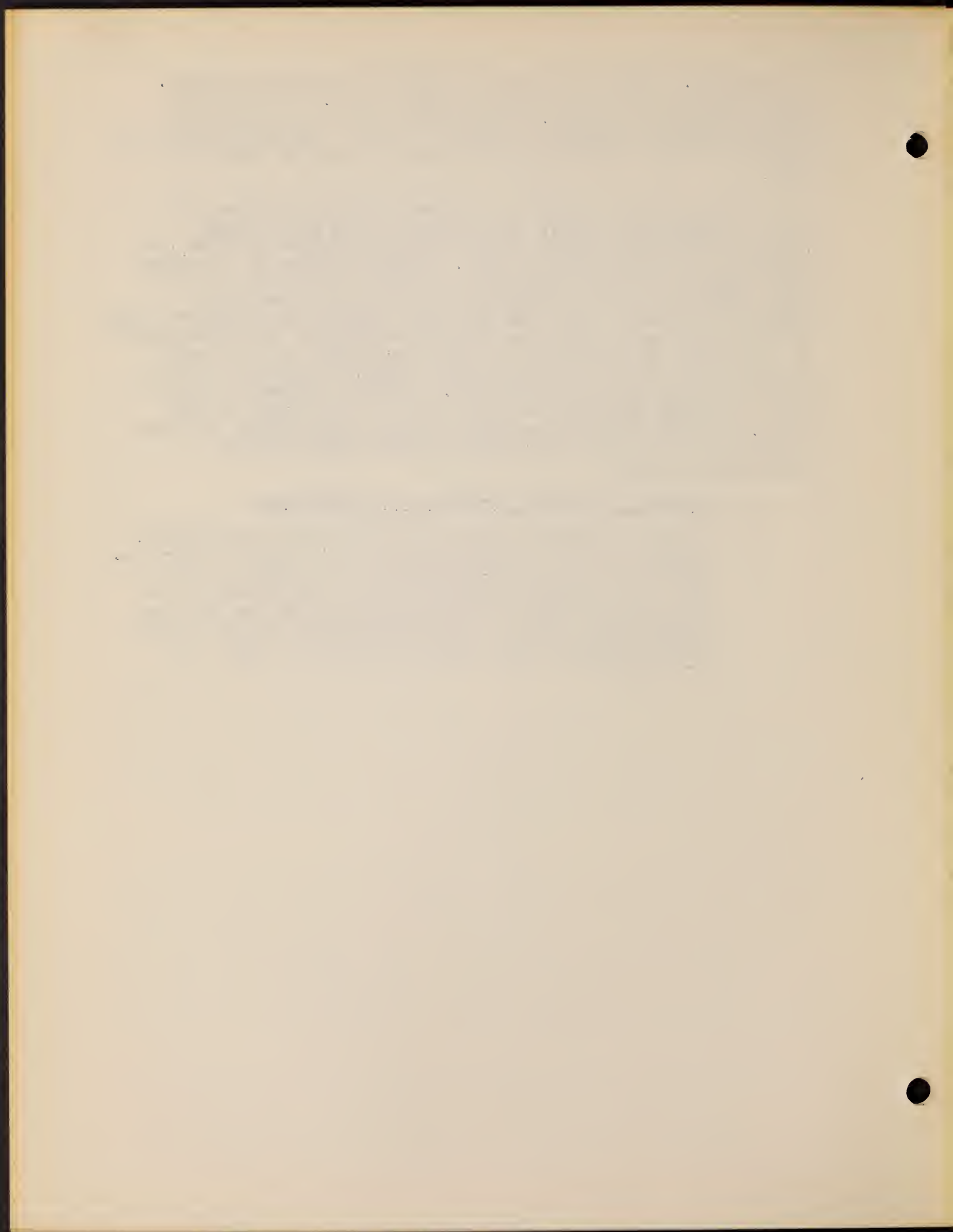
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war efforts. Louise was born in 1923 and had four children. The twins are Marcia and Michael aged 14 now. The younger two are Patrick and Judy. The mother died with a rare fatal disease known as Hodgkins Disease in 1954. The children are all doing well. The father married again and another child was born.

I- II Emma Purdy's second son, Charles Franklin Masten was born in Nebraska in 1885. The writer and he were raised together and went through school together graduating from the University of California in 1912. Charles became an architectural engineer and at present is head of the firm of "Masten & Hurd" in San Francisco. Charles has won many honors as a leading architect. His firm has built many large structures such as hospitals and schools and college buildings. His firm recently won a 1962 first award among 382 architects in the United States for an entire college at Las Altas, California. Chas. Masten married Wiley Ross in 1918. Charles became a captain in the 115th Army Engineers in World War I and served on the front. In World War II he again enlisted and became a Colonel of Engineers on the Western front in New Guinea and at Bogainville Island.

I - II Children of Charles Franklin and Wiley^c Ross

- a. Franklin Masten is the only son of Wiley and Charles. Franklin was born in the early 1920's in San Francisco. He saw service in World War I as an officer in the air force "flying box cars" and in the Korean War as a helicopter pilot. Franklin is married and has one child born in 1961. He is associated with his father in the architectural office of Masten & Hurd, San Francisco.



The Ridley Purdy Family

Ridley Mosgrave Purdy, another son of John Purdy and Anna Fretz was born in 1846 and died in 1936. He was born in Concession 4 of Sidney, 3 miles north and 3 miles west of Bellville. Ridley married Anna Ireland in the early 1870's. They raised 4 children; Fred, Harry, Lillian and Will Mosgrave Purdy. Will, the fourth child was born about 1874.

Ridley was 17 when his father John died in 1863. All of the men of the family had left home. He was left with the mother Anna and my mother Emma, the youngest of the children. Ridley took care of the old place at Smithfield for perhaps 10 years, then he got married and moved to property north of Trenton near a place known at first as Gordon's Mills and later as Glen Miller. The farm was east of Glen Miller, across the old bridge and a mile or two east. It now (1961) is only a remnant of the old home. The house was mostly torn down. The barn burned. Across the road is the Stickle place. Ridley came close to marrying a Maggie Stickle instead of his second wife. Later, I understand, Ridley moved to another place further east which he bought from Miller and still later sold back to Miller, the latter were owners of much Glen Miller property.

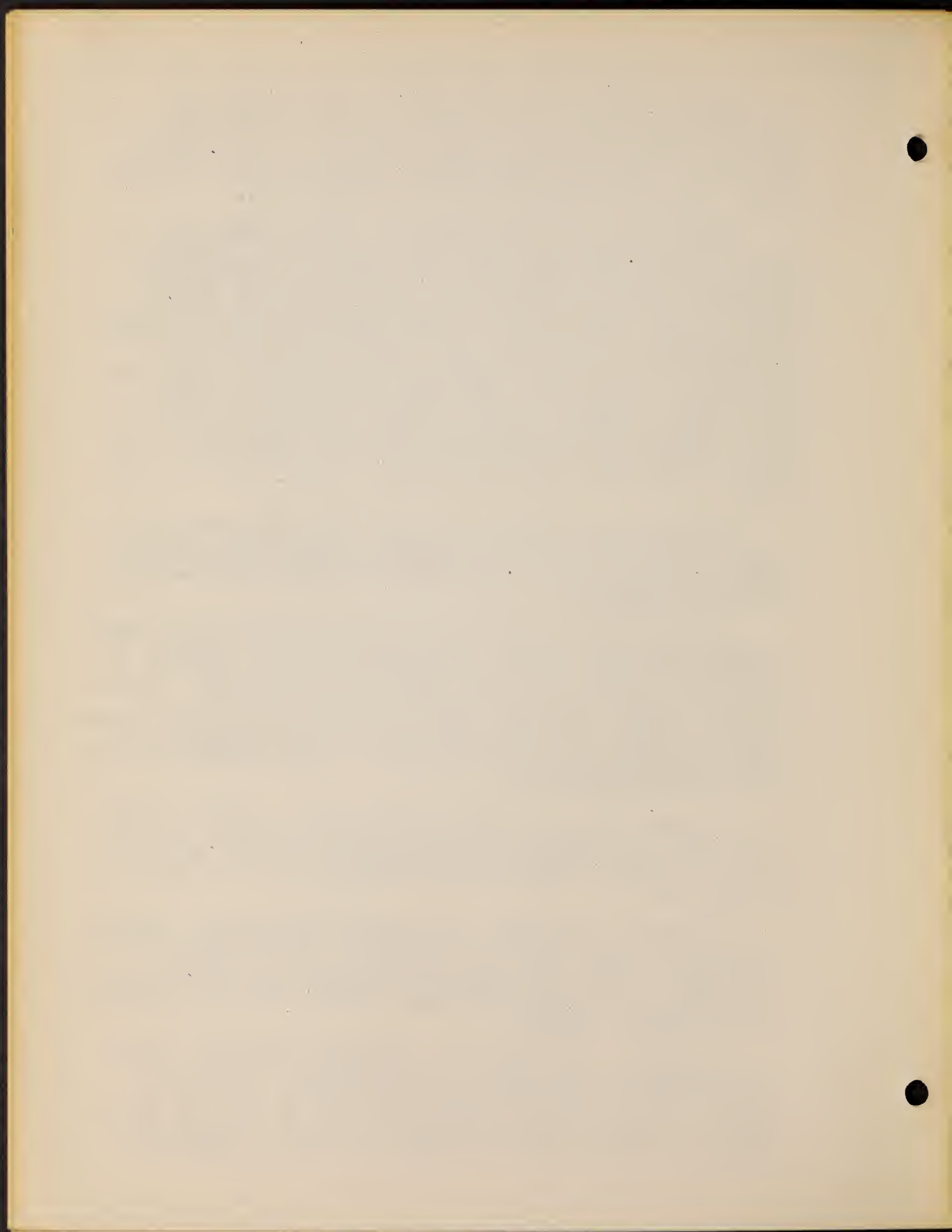
From this home across from Stickles my mother wrote most of her letters to my father in Kansas. These letters are the basis of the knowledge of our Purdys of Canada. This study concerns principally the study of the 8 children of John Purdy and their descendants.

Ridley remained to help the old Mother Purdy and her young daughter, Emma, my mother. For a number of years, perhaps, as many as ten he kept up the old place. The others had left and gone their various ways; were married and had families. Ridley and the ten year old sister became closely attached to one another. Ridley helped the mother run the farm which was located north of Smithfield a mile or two west of the cemetery at the cross roads (slightly north and east) with the cemetery road and the main Smithfield road.

We took pictures of this old property in a pretty setting later known as the Bullis place and legally described elsewhere. Here is where my mother was born and grew up to the age of 20 or older. Here is where my grandfather died when my mother was 10 years old.

Ridley had a big frame and a rugged disposition. Like his father John Purdy, he was an accurate builder of homes and the huge barns of those days. He was called on by the entire community to direct the raising of a large barn. It was he who rode the ridges and placed the huge timbers, entirely fearless of the dangers involved.

Ridley had a big heart and a generous disposition. The other brothers often called on him for help. He helped his brother David finance his store in Mason City. He helped Charles, another brother, finance his store in Iowa and he helped his brother Lewis in Brighton. I have no record of his dealings with his brother Samuel of Castleton excepting to



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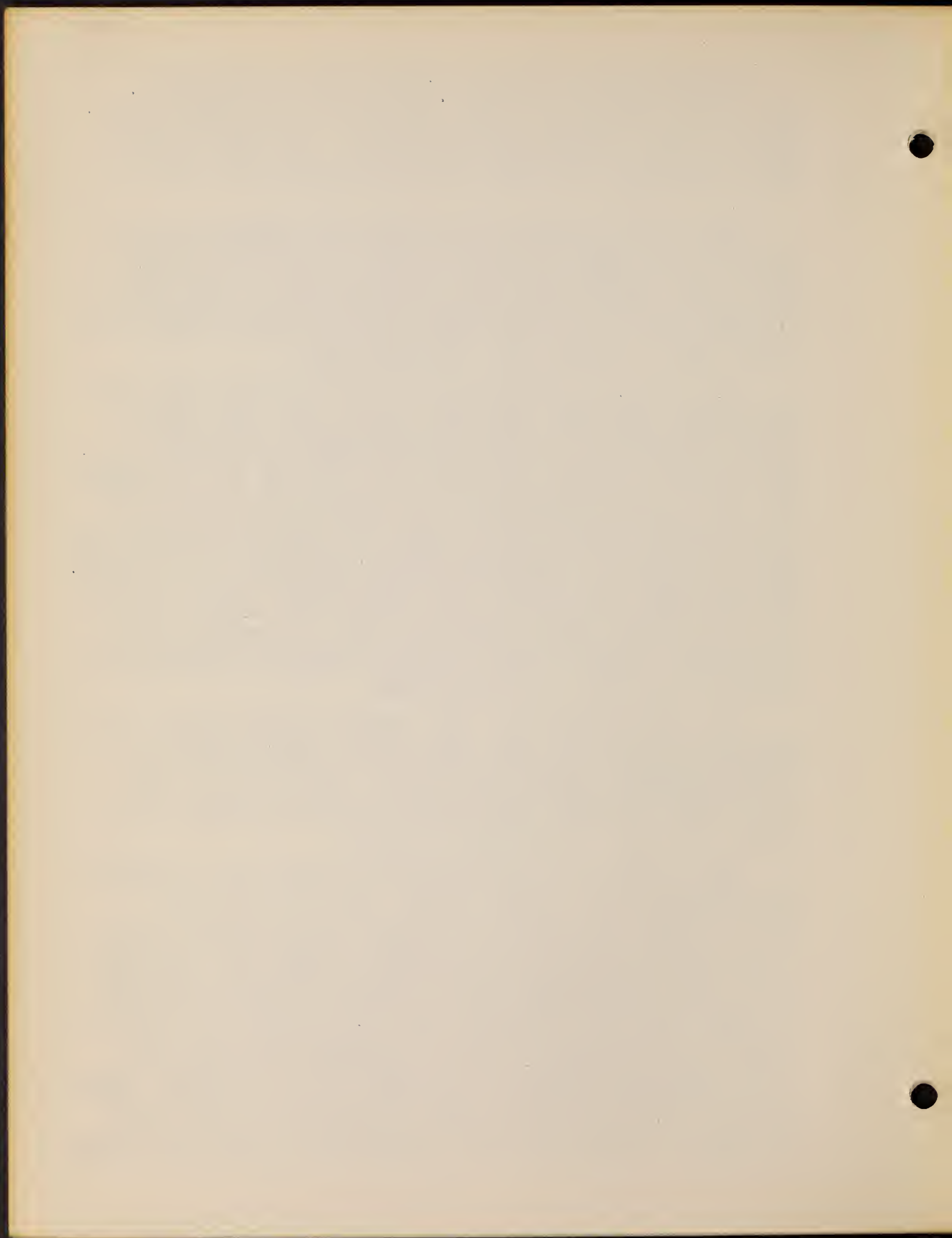
Ridley married Anna Ireland around 1870 or in the year or two before or later. Anna E. Ireland was born March 13, 1847 and died January 23, 1879. Her children were quite young. Anna is buried in the Smithfield cemetery. There were four children listed according to age Fred, Lillie, Harry and Will. Will was 88 years old in 1961 and is still living so he was born close to 1873.

Back at the old farm north of Smithfield things were in a difficult situation after Ridley married. Perhaps for several years after he married, he lived at the old farm with sister Emma. Soon, however, he purchased the farm east of Glen Miller about which I have spoken. He probably ran the old farm also. My mother was 20 in 1873 and around this time was attending school in various places and shortly thereafter taught school at a little school at Presque Isle near Brighton.

Mother Emma and my grandmother Anna were together alone for many years. They were very close to each other. From grandfather's death in 1863 until perhaps 1870, Ridley held the old home together north of Smithfield. My mother was attending school much of the time. Ridley ran the farm and the grandmother must have had a pretty rough time. I am not sure of this because the other brothers entered into the picture in many ways. The mother and sister Emma visited around a good deal and lived at times with the other families. The letters of my mother indicate that she was loved and entertained by her brothers and their wives who all seemed to be rising businessmen, prosperous and respected. The mother Anna also traveled much between these various families both with and independent of Emma. It is clear, however, that they kept the old farm at Smithfield until the early 70's when it was sold. From letters, I am quite sure that Ridley purchased his farm at Glen Miller partly with this money and in turn paid it back to his mother in easy payments.

The old Smithfield home was a lovely old place and had many memories for my mother Emma. The pictures I have indicated that even now the place could have been romantically and artistically arranged. Maturia, the eldest child was married here. Family life flourished and ended for the Purdy children here between 1853 and 1870. Most of them were born elsewhere, (all except my mother) at Concession 4, Sidney.

Ridley Purdy was a large powerful man but lean and muscular. Extremely ambitious and hard working, he seemed to be able to climb over the top of every obstacle. He was a successful farmer in spite of all the ups and downs of agriculture in those days. He was a lot more than a farmer. He was called upon by every farmer in the country when help was needed for a difficult task. One of my mother's letters tells how Ridley was the only man in the community who would take charge of the new threshing out jobs. He ran the threshing machines, repaired the machinery, constructed derricks, levelers and a host of things made with timbers, mounted home made stacking equipment, go devil hay rakes, drags and levelers. Ridley could make most anything out of iron and bolt it together with bolts, he made himself. Ridley seemed to know just when to harvest the grain in a bad year and how best to protect it by building a stack that the rain would run off from rather than into. He knew how to doctor sick animals



and how to keep them from getting sick by common sense treatment. His cows seemed to give more milk for some reason and were not mean or vicious. He dehorned the cattle and handled any mean bull. He broke spoiled horses and often cured them from being vicious. It was told that he could outsmart any balky horse. Ridley could break horses to becoming wonderful teams that would obey every word. He was not a rich but a well do do farmer who loved to help people out of troubles. It was said that he could have been rich if his heart was not so big.

I could tell much more about the things I learned about Ridley Purdy. However, I would rather recommend that you read a bulletin published by H. Pearson Gundy, the chief librarian at Queen's University of Kingston, Ontario, Canada, about Ridley's uncle, Gilbert Purdy of Ernestown (now Bath). This bulletin tells about this brother of Ridley's father as being a "Pioneer-Jack-of-all-Trades". While Ridley confined his efforts to agriculture yet he was a farmer who started agriculture on the road to being what it is today. *helped*

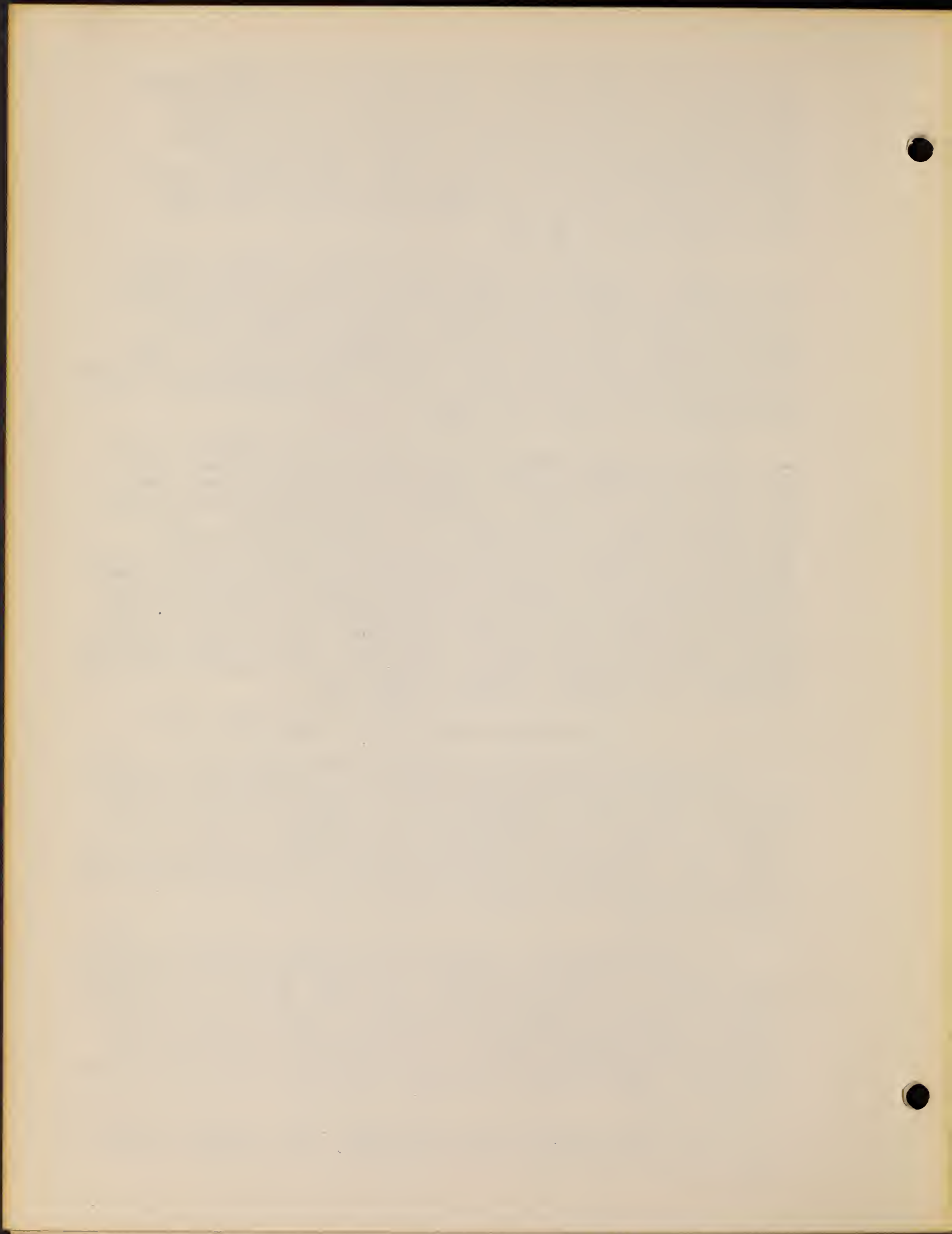
Ridley's wife became ill and gradually was unable to care for the young family of four. The grandmother and Emma could not bear to see the children neglected by housekeepers alone. So they moved in to help. My mother gave up her school because her mother, Anna, was not able to do the work alone. From 1877 until 1880 much time was spent with these children of Ridley's at the Gordon Mill home north of Trenton. Ridley had housekeepers but my mother-to-be and her mother, Anna, the grandmother, started the children out in a gentle, loving Christian atmosphere which does so much to create in them a love of life and a successful future. Many things can happen to destroy this family love and family unity. These days there is less and less parental care apparent. Less time with the children is beginning to show in all of this juvenile delinquency.

Anna Ireland Purdy died January 23rd, 1879.

In 1880 approximately, Ridley married a second time. Quite soon after Anna's death partly because my mother-to-be was about to leave for Iowa to be married to my father, William W. Masten, and also, Anna, the grandmother of the children was unable to carry on. This time he married a Jennie Purdy, a first cousin. Jennie was the daughter of grandfather John's brother Jacob. In fact, John and Jacob had married sisters. Anna and Amelia Fretz. So Jennie was a close relative. Ridley and Jennie had one child named Don Purdy.

In the meantime the family of Anna's was growing up. Fred, Harry, Lillie and Will. Elsewhere we tell more of the story of this family and their descendants. All grew up and lived their early lives in the vicinity of their births mostly in or around Trenton, Ontario. Harry never married. Lillie never married. She was killed while alone in an accident with her horse and cutter at a railroad crossing. Will lived for many years, so did Fred. Fred's family was small. Will had five children and a fine family.

Will Purdy married Audrey Hagerman. They raised a family of five located now around Toronto, Canada. This family deserves



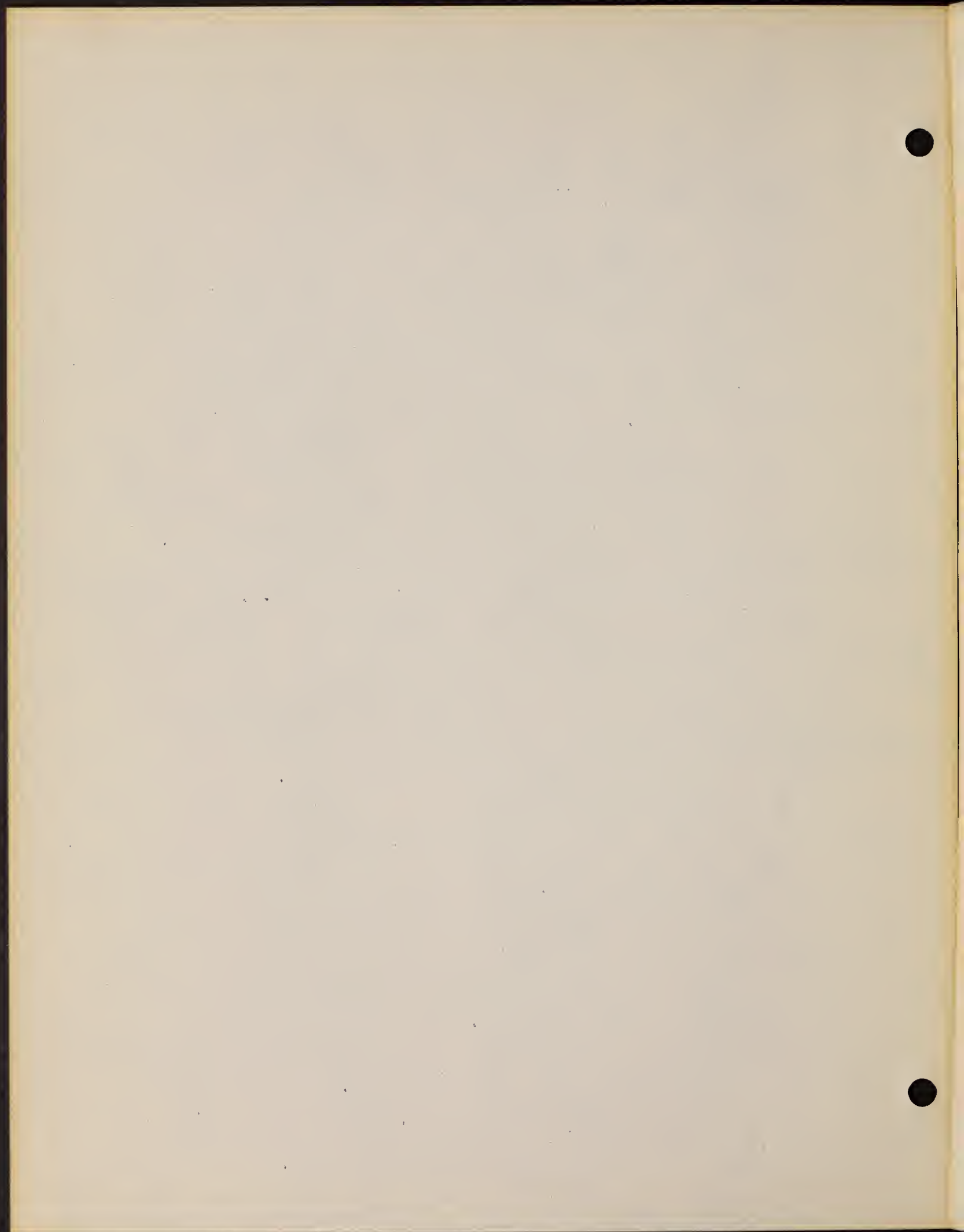
special consideration elsewhere because of its size and activities. We visited Will M. Purdy and his wife Audrey at 65 Keewatin Ave., Apt. 214, Toronto, Ontario, Canada in August, 1961. We learned a great deal about the history of the Purdy family. We were helped in our search of the records by the encouragement given us by Will Purdy of Toronto. Will is now (1961) 88 years old. He has a clear mind, in fact, is the only first cousin of the Purdys that I have left in Canada of direct descent. There are five of us in the U.S.

The fact that my mother was born the youngest in the family makes it possible for my brother and myself at 75 and 77 to be a cousin of Will at 88. The other cousins living are Effie Purdy and Nellie Scribner, daughters of Ralph Purdy who settled in Wisconsin. Maud Thomas, daughter of Charley Purdy and myself and brother.

Ridley Purdy lived to be 90 years old. By 1936 when he died he was all alone and having a pretty hard time shifting for himself. For some time he lived by himself in an apartment in Trenton. For some time he was with his sister Maturia's family the Oakes of Brighton. Times were pretty bad in the depression of the 1930's, older people everywhere were in a bad situation. Our laws of today, both in Canada and the U.S.A., now protect these older citizens. The circumstances resulting from the depression of the 30's helped to solve this problem. Older citizens today have rights to contentment and happiness, only a dream of those past years.

Ridley Purdy died in 1936. His funeral and burial was taken care of by his son Will in Smithfield cemetery. We visited this cemetery, my wife and myself, in August, 1961. A single stone marks the grave of Anna Purdy, the first wife of Ridley Purdy. There are no other markers but Will M. Purdy told us that he had seen personally to the burial of his father near the marked grave of Will's mother, Anna, and likewise had seen to the burial of his sister Lillie, his brother Harry and his father's second wife Jennie in the same plot.

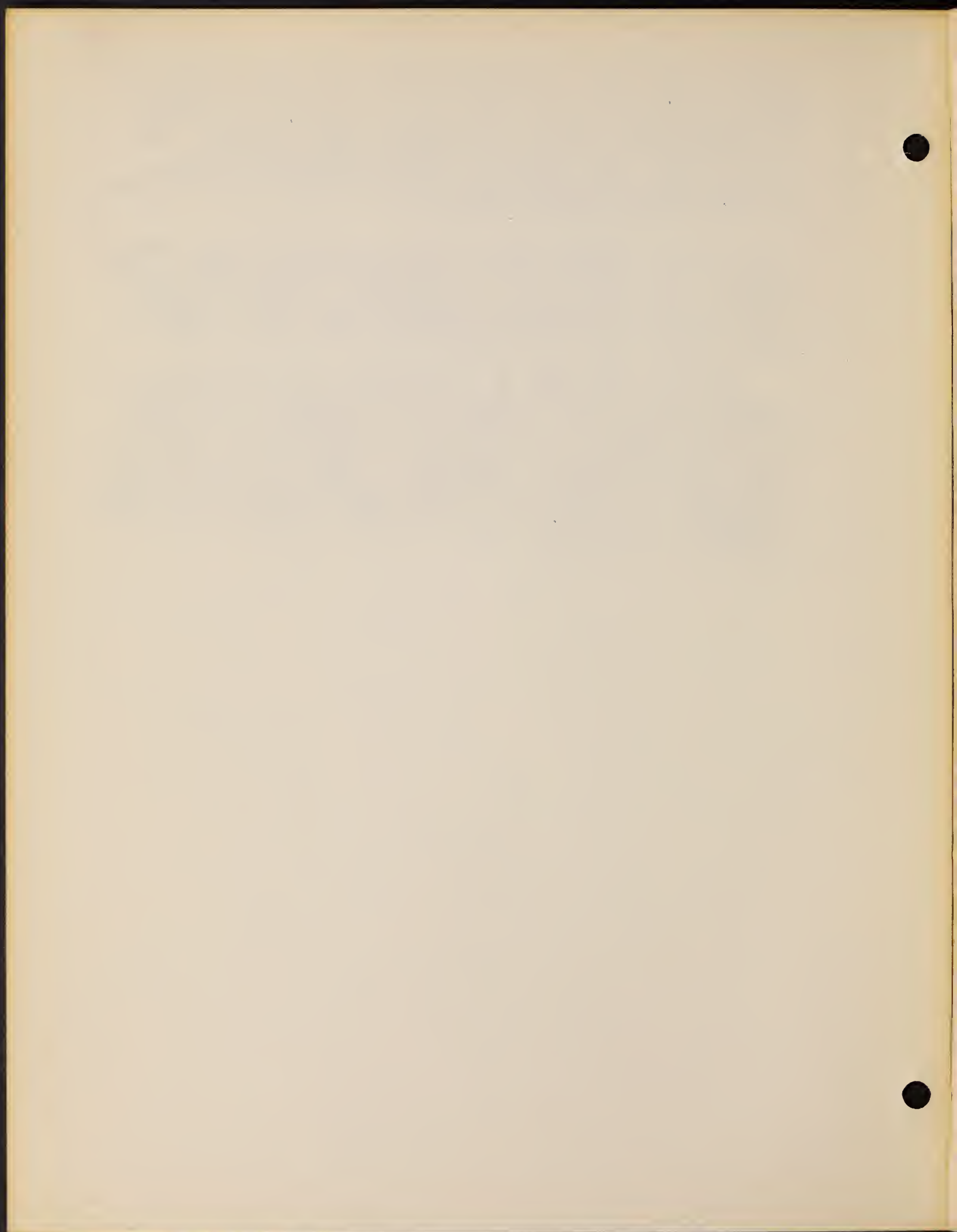
In 1908 when Ridley was in his 60's he came all the way to El Centro, Imperial Co., California on the Mexican border to visit we two boys and our father. His memory of my mother and her tragic end was on his mind. He wondered if her two boys would be like their mother. I was like her in looks and actions and he was real happy that her dreams for her children were being carried out. During his visit I came to know him and learned much about the old Purdy home and the old Purdy family, of my mothers, then scattered about. He told me about the old grandmother and her fondness for we boys. The grandmother had come to Nebraska to live with us during the years before mother died. He told us about his own family in Canada. At that time we two boys were attending the University of California at Berkely. My father was doing well financially. He owned considerable property in El Centro. Ridley and Sam and David of Mason City had all wanted to take we two boys and raise us. They figured that my father, a one armed man, would not be able to raise us. Ridley said while there that he guessed we were being given all and more than the Purdy's could have given us. Ridley had a depth of character and a fondness for those he loved that death



could not take away. I never heard from him after he left. I was an active hot blooded youth, I knew nothing of the heart-aches and heart throbs of the past. I never knew my mother because she died less than three years after my birth. What those before us went through to give us our chance never occurred to me. The selfishness of youth toward any memory of their parents and the sacrifices made for youth by their parents is often a heart rending reality.

After all these years, I am just learning that the story of those who gave us life is a heart warming story. That in these cemeteries lie the bodies of warm hearted, loving yearning God fearing souls. During life their fondest hope was that in some way they could help those who came after them to have and accomplish what was often denied to them by a cruel fate.

Learning this story of my mother from those who knew her in Canada and at home warms my heart. The search for names and stories and activities, knowing the difficulties of the lives of our pioneers is a thrilling study. Gathering more dollars than we can spend or to be wasted in foolish social competition seems to be so shallow in comparison. Just what are we doing today that measures up to the time and effort bestowed upon the youngsters of yester year. It seems that the children of today are left to shift for themselves without the parental care and discipline of the past.



The James H. Vrooman-Maturia Purdy Vrooman Family

Maturia Purdy was the eldest child of the John Purdy Anna Fretz family. Like most all the other members of this family she was born in Concession 4 of Sidney on a farm. The exceptions were my mother Emma and her sister Elizabeth who were born after the family moved to the Smithfield farm in 1853. Maturia was married at the Smithfield farm just after the family moved there in 1853, the same year my mother Emma was born. Maturia was born in 1833.

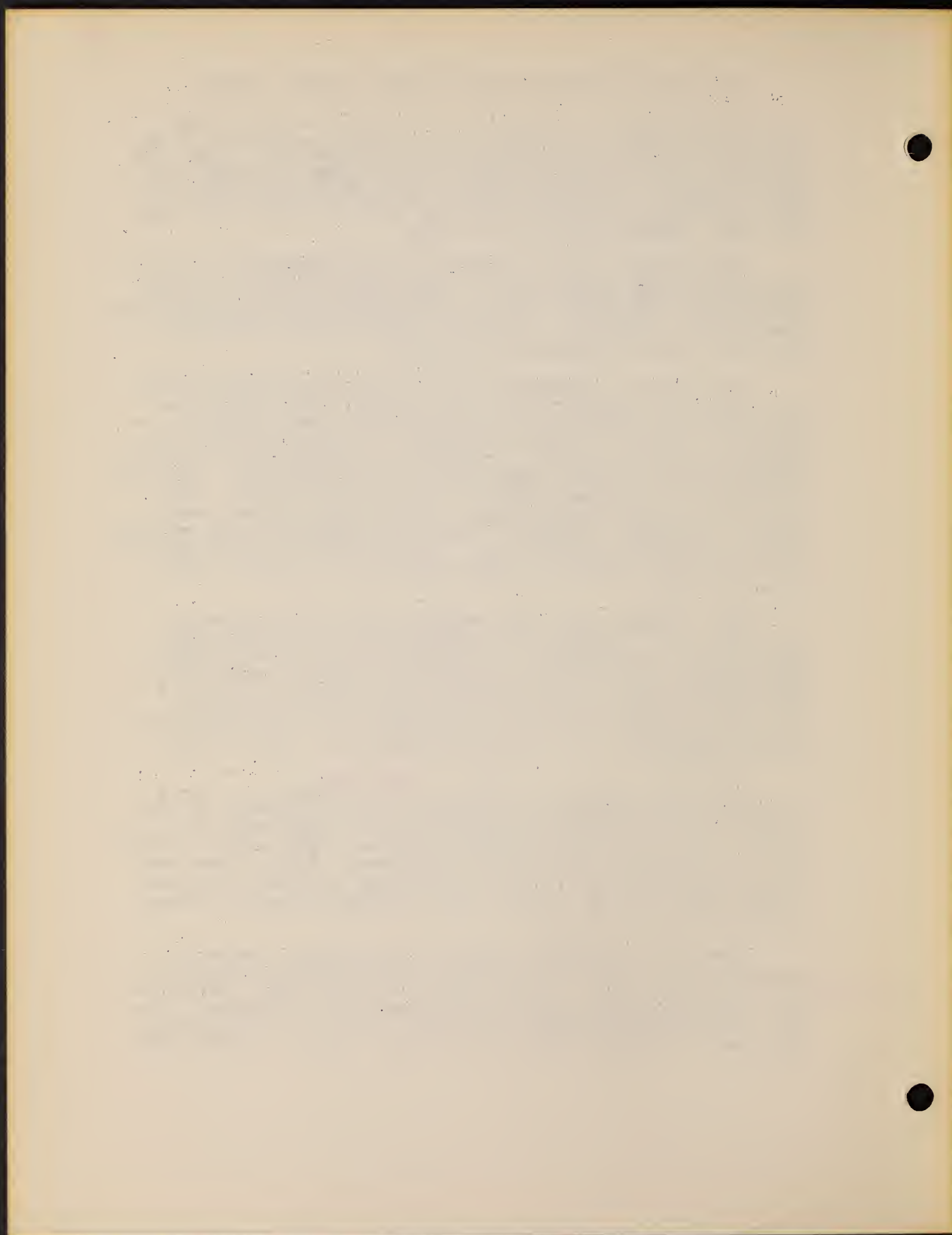
The Vroomans lived in Trenton and at Campbellford or in that vicinity of Canada most of their married lives. James was a Millwright, and engineer, and helped install lumbering and saw mill equipment. In later life he owned several general merchandise stores, one in Campbellford and one in Trenton. They had a fine large home in Trenton.

The Vroomans raised two children, Will and Mary Lillian. Two others were drowned when quite young. Mary Lillian married George E. Oakes and their family home was mostly at Brighton, Ontario. Minnie, as Mary Lillian was called had a family of four children. The oldest was Ione Oakes who never married and who taught school most of her adult life. She is living now at 88 George Street, Toronto 14, Ontario. (Minnie) Ione has been very helpful in our study of the Purdy family. The four children in the Oakes family are all married and with families except Ione. This family will be discussed under the title George E. Oakes family or by direct letter from Ione Oakes.

Will Vrooman, the only brother of Minnie who grew to maturity, was a nephew of my mother Emma. My mother spent much time at the Vroomans. Her sister Maturia was perhaps twenty years older than she and was more like a mother to her. Will, Maturia's son, was a nephew of my mother, but only a few years younger. The two, with their escorts, attended many parties together which are explained in old letters written by my mother to her intended husband who was my father, W. W. Masten.

Minnie's
Miss Ione Oakes, the oldest of the children, is now a retired teacher living at 88 George Street, Ontario. We had the pleasure of visiting Ione Oakes and talking about the Purdys. We exchanged a number of pictures and learned a great deal about several of the Purdy families. In fact Ione has been so generous in helping us that many problems have been solved with her aid. We are very grateful for many letters answering our questions.

years ago When we visited Maud Purdy of Castletown we were told about the Oakes family and about the grandmother Maturia who lived with them. Also we learned that Ridley, Maturia's brother, had lived with the Oakes for a time. That was long ago. We knew little about them until after we left Brighton and went to Toronto where we met Ione. Then we learned much more.



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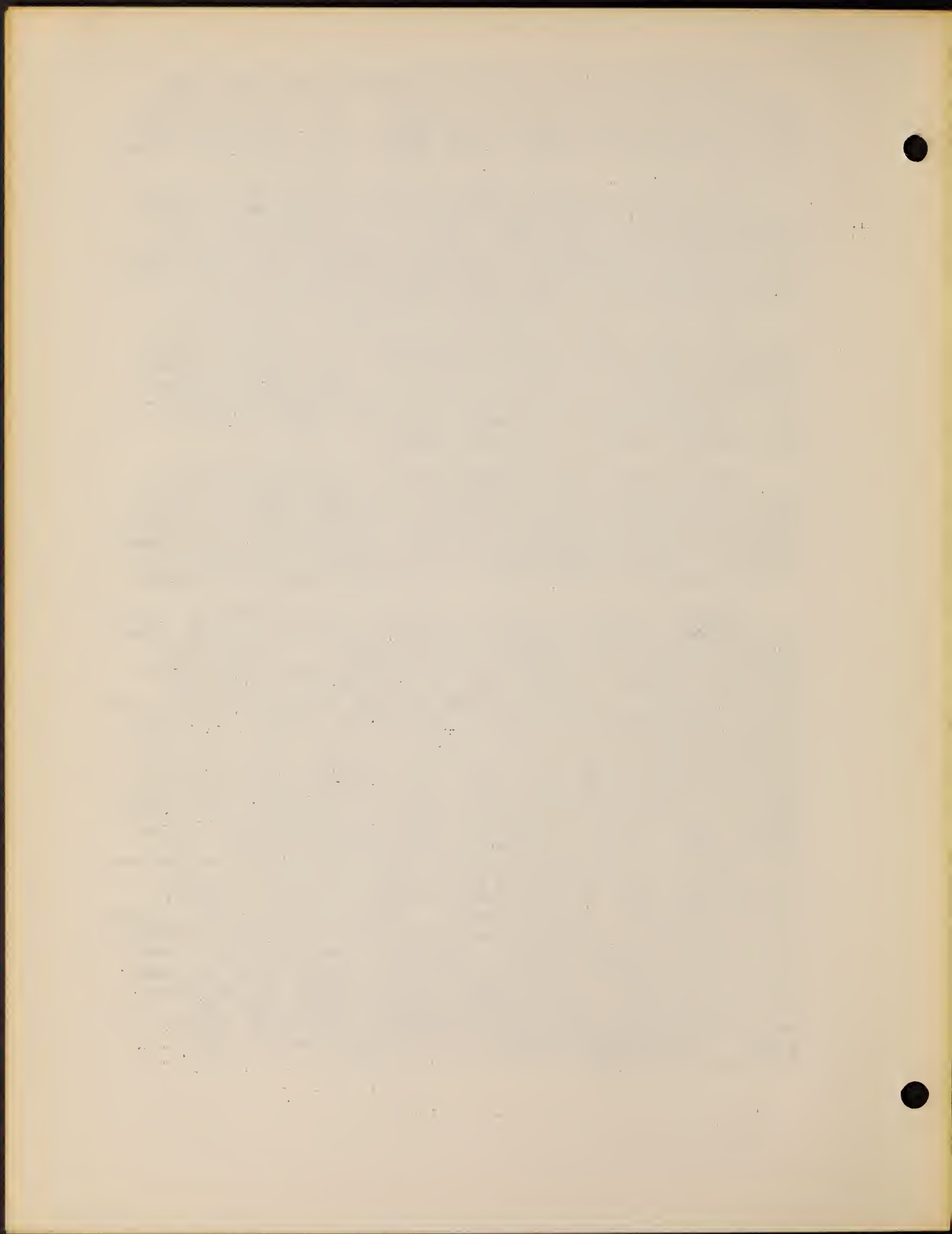
My mother's letters told much about Lewis Purdy, her brother who settled in Brighton. That was during the 1870's. Minnie was not yet married to Ed Oakes. Ione helped us get many facts about the Lewis Purdy family. They are all buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery now. Not a soul is left to carry on the story. 35

Ione Oakes helped us locate a daughter (of Will Vrooman and his wife named Sarah Ogilvie), who is named Maud Vrooman at Lake Nebagamon, Wisconsin. Maud is an unmarried school teacher, lately retired, who taught Physical Education in the high schools of Wisconsin. Maud has likewise been very helpful in locating the Ralph Purdy family, another brother of my mother and member of the John Purdy-Anna Fretz family.

Ione knows and told us about a certain special friend of Maud Purdy, the last surviving member of the Lewis Purdy family of Brighton, except one brother. This friend's name is Fanny Mallory. I wrote to Fanny Mallory about locating some remnants of the old family of Lew Purdy and she referred me to a certain Elva M. Hobbs of Toronto. Elva's letters give further insight into these Purdys.

Will Vrooman married Sarah Ogilvie in Campbellford, Ontario. Their family included three boys and one girl, and were raised principally around Superior, Wisconsin. The only daughter is Maud Vrooman who is still living, and whose address is at Lake Nebagamon, Box 39, Wisconsin. Maud was never married. Letters written by Maud tell about her father and mother and her father's family. They are included elsewhere.

Maturia Vrooman's husband James H. Vrooman died in Trenton in 1894. Maturia was born in 1833 and died in 1922. She lived over 28 years longer than her husband. During this time she lived with her daughter "Minnie" Oakes in Brighton. Maturia's brother, Ridley Purdy, lived with the Oakes for some time also. Another brother of this special family of our study (John-Anna Purdy family), was Lew A. Purdy, a very successful merchant of the same city all of his life. Lew, the oldest brother of Maturia, was born in 1834, and died in 1911. His wife Mary Louiss Rose Purdy lived between years 1839 and 1918. So we see that for many years Maturia, Lew, and Ridley were all living in Brighton and their paths must have crossed many times. Not far away at Castle town Will Purdy, the son of Sam Purdy, another brother, lived and their family was growing up. In talking to Will's wife, Maud Purdy, we learned that Aunt Maturia and Uncle Ridley used to visit back and forth many times, and the Oakes family and the Will Purdy family knew each other very well. Samuel's other sons, Walter and Lou, grew up, married, and raised their families elsewhere, further east around Trenton, Belleville, and Kingston. Sam, with his sons Walter and Lou, had a big lumber mill and business at Coe Hill in the early 1900's, before the two sons went on their own. The old Patriarchs, Ridley and Sam, lived many years, Sam until 1930, and Ridley until 1936, age 90 years. Brighton and Trenton and Coe Hill were the home locations involved.



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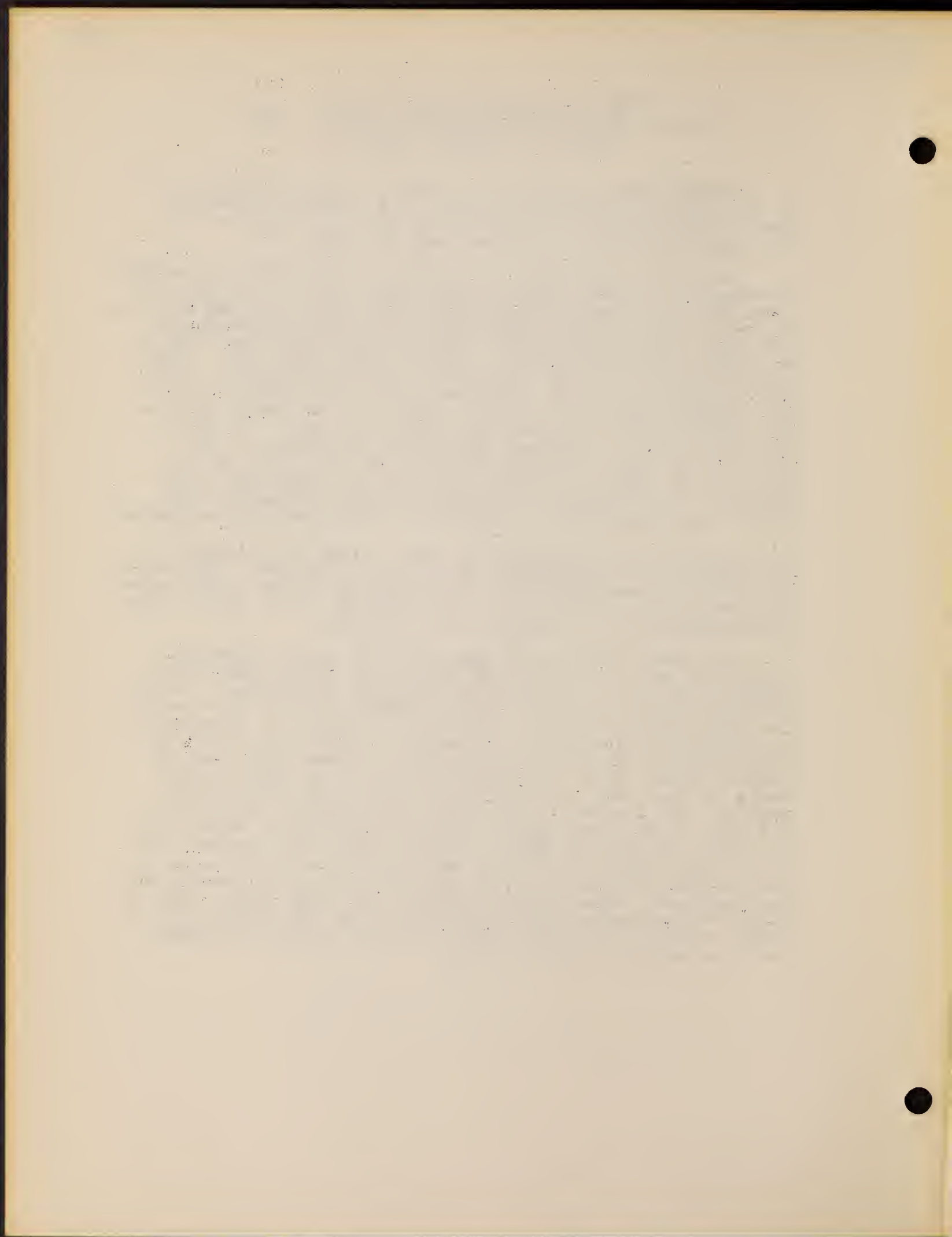
The Late Mrs. Maturia Vrooman
Obituary from Brighton Ensign May 12, 1922
Brighton, Ontario, Canada 36

Maturia Purdy, widow of the late James H. Vrooman died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. G. E. Oakes on the 3rd (May 3, 1922) after a brief illness due to anaemia at the ripe age of 89 years. She was born in 1833.

The eldest in a family of eleven she was born on the 3rd Concession of Sidney township where she lived until past 20 years of age, then moving to Smithfield where she was married to James H. Vrooman who was a Millwright and afterwards a merchant. They lived at Workworth, Campbellford and Trenton. Mr. Vrooman died at Trenton, twenty-eight years ago, since which time Mrs. Vrooman has lived with her daughter. The retention of her sight, hearing, locomotion, memory and all her mental faculties to within a month of her death made her an attractive and most companionable old lady. She never lost her pride in personal appearance and manners. She is survived by three brothers, S.L. at Coe Hill, Ridley at Trenton, and Charles at Portland, Oregon. The last named came all that journey to make her a visit during the past winter, only returning to his home about a week before Easter.

A member of the Methodist Church from her childhood, Mrs. Vrooman proud steadfast in faith to the end. The funeral took place on the 5th, instant services being conducted at the house by her pastor Rev. W. B. Tucker, after which interment was made in the family plot at Trenton.

The above obituary of Maturia Purdy gives historical background which is not found elsewhere, concerning John Purdy's family. The following facts are significant. Maturia was the eldest child born in 1833. She was born on the 3rd Concession of Sidney which gives location to the home of the John Purdy family for 20 years, or until all were born except Emma Purdy, who was born at the Smithfield home in 1853 on August 31st. Maturia was married in 1853, at 20 years of age. We have no authentic date of John Purdy's wedding, but assume it to be 1852 or before on account of the date of Maturia's birth, and of the birth of both John in 1805, and Anne in 1813. We know from other sources that John Purdy died in 1863, and that all of the children were married and left home before grandfather's death, except Ridley and Emma. Emma and her mother, Mrs. John Purdy, were on their own resources from 1863 until my mother was married in 1881, and then they were together at our home in Nebraska until my mother's death in 1887.



Charles B. Purdy and ⁵Decendents

Charles B. Purdy was born November 18, 1850 in Sidney, Ontario Province, Canada. He died October 7, 1936. He was born on Maturia Purdy, his sister's birthday. In 1869 Charlie left Smithfield, Canada for Spencer, Iowa where he married May E. McConnell in 1874 at the age of 24 years. In 1875 their first child, Edith Maud, was born on October 4th. The second child, Louis Allen was born June 8, 1880 and died April 16, 1959. A third child, Maturia Ann, was born in Ipswitch, South Dakota in 1886 or thereabouts. Mary E. McConnel was born in Worthington, Indiana, October 20, 1846 and she died on April 27, 1937 in Portland, Oregon.

Between 1875 and 1877 Charles Purdy with his young family moved to Iowa Falls, Iowa where he went into the grocery business again. It was here in 1878 that Emma Purdy, his sister, came to visit him and where she met my father-to-be, William V. Masten in the summer of 1878. Emma returned to Canada early in 1879. My father moved to Cottonwood Falls, Kansas. The two of them corresponded until March 22, 1881 when Emma, my mother-to-be, returned to her brothers in Iowa Falls and was married. Charles Purdy left Iowa Falls, Iowa and went to Ipswitch, South Dakota where I understand he opened up a store for sometime. He moved to Ipswitch in 1882.

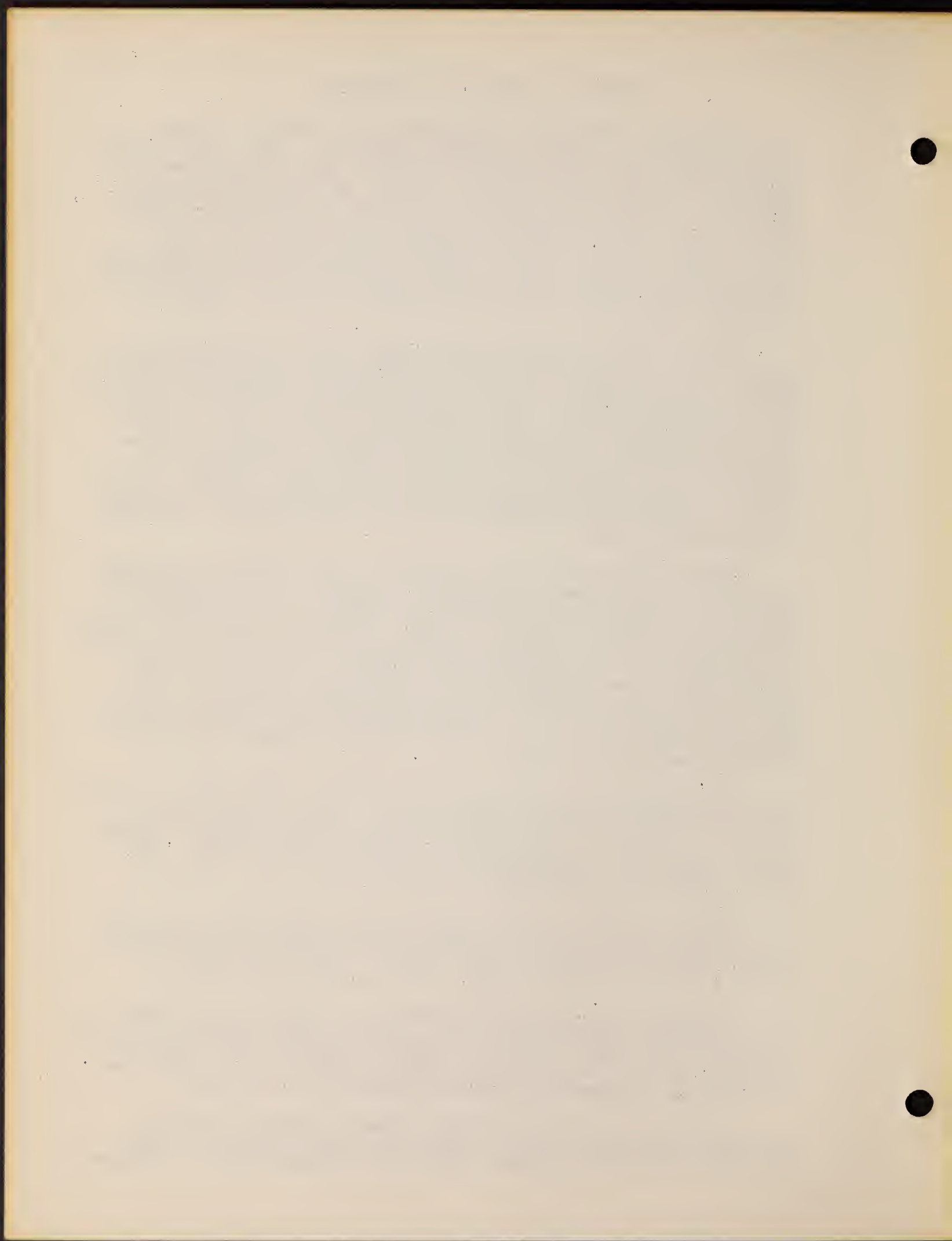
Charles Purdy moved from Ipswitch, South Dakota to Nortonville, Minnesota, then to Portland, Oregon in 1898. Edith Maud, his oldest daughter married Samuel A. Thomas who was born in Hitchcock, Indiana, October 31, 1865. Their children were Charles Purdy Thomas born in Eureka, South Dakota, July 27, 1894; Samuel Arvid Thomas born in Nortonville, Minnesota, October 2, 1895, Beryl Thomas born September 23, 1891 and died in infancy; Iva Viola Thomas born in Nortonville, Minnesota, November 2, 1897 and Mardie Grace Thomas born in Portland, Oregon, July 29, 1901; Louis U. Thomas born in Arlington, Oregon, September 25, 1903 and died February 14, 1962.

Maturia Purdy married a man named Hunt. They had 3 children: Ruth Elizabeth who married Henry Plum: Ruth and Henry have 2 children: Jonathan, and Charlie. Charlie has 3 children: Diana, Keife, and Wesley. Dariel Hunt married William Farrel. They have 3 children. Archibald Hunt married and has 2 children. Louis Thomas never married.

Edith Maud Thomas and Samuel Thomas, her husband, who was a printer by trade, have the following children and decendants. Arvid Thomas who married Emmie Harvie. Their children are: Donald, Dorothy, Margie, Maxon, Grace, Lewis and Sammy.

Iva Thomas married Lawrence Harvey, a railroad engineer. Their children are Lorraine, who married Norman Meyers, and whose children are Jerry, Leland, and Gale. Arlaine died before marriage at 20. George married Juanita Null and has 4 children and Lillian married Murray Anderson and had 4 children.

Another one of Sam and Edith Thomas' children, Mardie, married a man named Everett Walker who died recently in 1958. They had 3 children: Myrtle Walker who married Harry J. Reninger.



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They have 2 children, Thomas and Nancy. Sharon Walker married Robert Helm recently.

Lewis W. Thomas was never married. He died February 14, 1962.

Another one of Maud and Sam Thomas' children, Charles Purdy Thomas married Eva Wishon in 1915 or 1916 shortly before Lawrence Harvey married Iva Thomas. Charlie and Eva have 3 children: Deva Mae, Keith and Wesley. There is some confusion as to whether Charles was born in Eureka, South Dakota. While Charles Purdy and his wife Mary have been dead for sometime, the writer visited Portland, Oregon in October, 1962, and found Maud Thomas still living. She was 88 years old on October 4th. All of the above mentioned families were found and most of them visited. My wife and myself were very pleasurably received and we talked about the old Purdy family for a considerable time. Cousin Maud brought out a large number of old photographs which we compared with those of our own concerning the old Purdy family of Canada. The writer is corresponding now with Cousin Maud and her daughters, Mardie, and Iva, who married Lawrence Harvey. They have given me many old letters which are helping very much to fill in many details which were heretofore unknown.

The Purdy family of John Purdy and Margaret Ann Fretz included 11 children. All of them were born at a farm in the Third Concession of Sidney, except my mother, Emma, and a still younger sister, Esther, who died in infancy. The latter were born at a farm in Smithfield. We have records of only eight of these, whom, with their descendants we have traced down to the present. In order of age this family included Maturia, Louisa, Wenthy, Ralph W., Samuel, David, Ridley, Charles, Emma, Esther or Elizabeth--no information about Phillip.

Charles Purdy was the last to leave home at Smithfield. He went to Spencer Iowa about 1869 at 19 years of age. Shortly thereafter he opened up a store in Spencer which he ran until he moved to Iowa Falls, Iowa in 1877-78 where he had a store until he moved to Ipswitch, South Dakota.

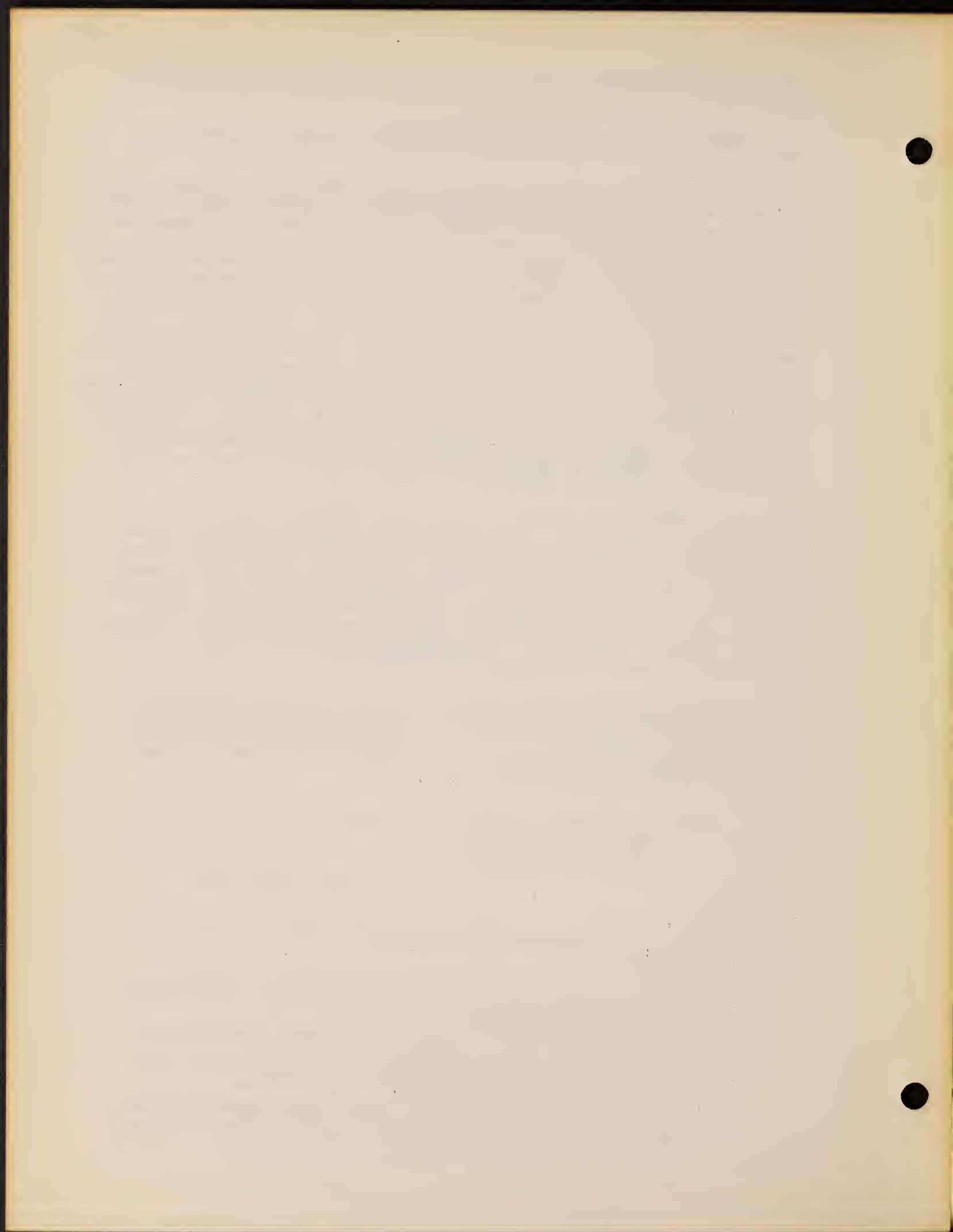
Letter from Mr. & Mrs. Iva and L. J. Harvey
605 E. 4th Street
The Dalles, Oregon

Nov. 7th, 1962

Excerpt:

I have a wee bit more information in answer to your questions

1. Maude's son Charles was born in Eureka, South Dakota instead of Spencer as I told you.
2. Charles Purdy left Smithfield, Ontario about 1869.
3. Met his wife, Mary McConnell, in Spencer, Iowa and was married in 1874 in Cerro Co., Iowa.
4. He had a store in Spencer at the time Maude was born in 1875, moved to Iowa Falls, 3 years later or about 1879.



5. No record of where he got the money to start a store but think it came from the brother that was home in Smithfield, Ontario. Mother (Maude) does not know what he did from the time he left home till he had the store in Spencer.
6. Charles and Mary moved to Ipswitch, South Dakota in 1882 or 1883.
7. Moved to Portland, Oregon in 1898 with their son, Lewis, and daughter Maturia (Mae). Where Lewis died in 1950 and Mae still living--you visited her when you were in Portland. Maude and husband, Samuel Thomas moved to Portland in 1900. Had 5 children at that time, Charles, Arvid, and Ira. Hardie was born in Portland and Lewis was born in Arlington, Oregon.

Letter to: Charles B. Purdy, Esq. Portland, Oregon
484 N. Springfield North August 26, 1910

Dear Brother Charles,

I was most glad to get your letter. We were so pleased to find you were all well. Maturia tells us you are in business. I certainly wish you best of success and I have every reason to believe your success will be rapid for you have seen a lot of this world's things and tide and know just how to take hold of every branch of business. We are quite well, Minnie, Maude and myself. Harry has lame ankles and I fear for him. He is in a large shop and his work I think is constant walking and pushing. We used to often hear from Mr. & Mrs. Thomas and always thought them most kind. He printed a smart little paper and it took our best talent and industry for that.

How we would like to see you all and meet you all, for we know your dear lady as well as yourself have to manage so much and so constantly, to have loved family ties. Your daughter, Mrs. Thomas as well as Mr. Thomas, we have always longed to see, you and your family.

I have wanted to sell out here what little we have and go west. I am glad to tell you the whole Purdy family in this part are quite well. I saw Ridley last night. Walter is off for the coast with his new wife, Miss Nichol of Castleton. We are having nice weather and fair crops, but our apple crop is small. Still many barrels of fruit will go from here. Farleys, Jones, etc. are quite well. Oakes have had a fine crop of berries, cherries and garden, and are well. His oldest daughter, Ione, will soon be teaching.

Ione could get a pass to teach three years but she intends going to the Normal School and get No. 1 Certificate, which I presume is for life or as long as she wishes to teach.

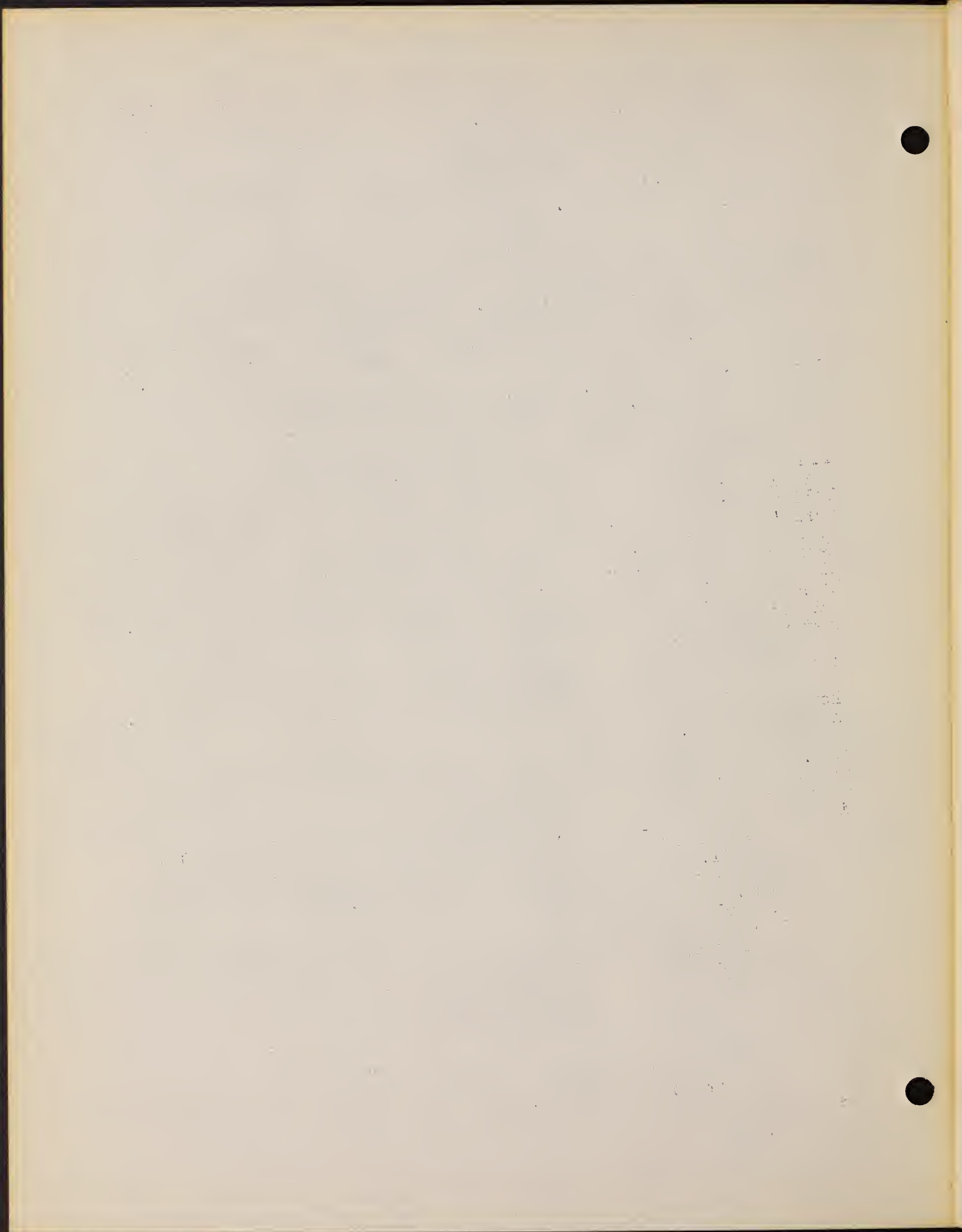
I wish you and all yours most truly well.

We would be so glad to see any of you or all of you.

Your affectionate brother

Lewis A. Purdy 37

Walter Purdy is married and going to the coast for a trip. Perhaps he is at your place now. I presume Ada often gets to see you.



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Letter to: Charles B. Purdy, Esq.
484 E. Springfield, North
Portland, Oregon

12/3/10

Dear Brother Charles,

There has not been a day for years that I did not want to write you. The loss of all my property kept me from writing even now. I will just tell you we are poor--have not money to pay life insurance only as I borrow it--and luxuries we deny ourselves--come and see us. I must tell you that I had compassion for you years gone by and gone slower, helped you in your hour of need. Then I was selfish every way--lost Ida, Francis and Freddy after educating them both for doctors--gone--gone to their final home. I do so hope you are all well. We hear you are coming to Canada. We would love to see you all, your dear wife, children and Mr. Thomas. I have a mind to sell out and start for Portland.

It remained for . . . (my creditors) to strip me of my last dollar and turn me outdoors. They took my shop, stock, and put on pad locks--I am out. It has almost killed me--Minnie and Maude have saved me so far.

I am not going into particulars but hope to live to see you all--I have a mind to try and get Min, Maude and myself to start for Portland. I would do so at once only Ida, Francis and Freddy are on our Hill (Mt. Hope Cemetery)--and I am daily trying to keep my life insurance paid. We are quite well at present. Harry and his wife are at Dauphin, Manitoba, Care of Dauphin Mercantile Co.

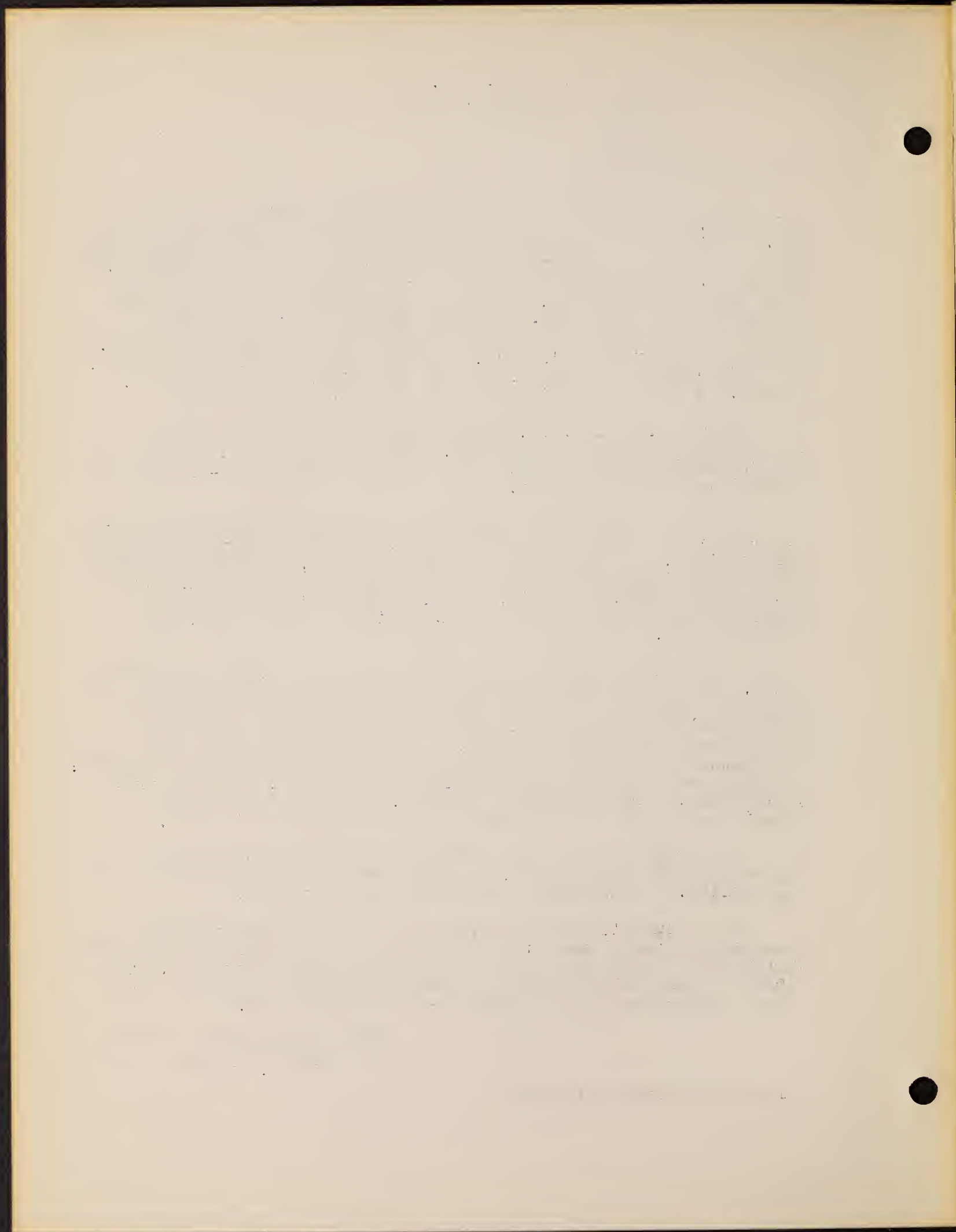
I hear from you and yours often through Maturia and Minnie Oakes. I am glad you are doing well and I hope you and your dear wife and all your loved ones may long be spared to health and happiness here below on this earth and eventually be the happy occupiers of the home in Heaven. My loved wife is bad with rheumatism, has been afflicted for years but gets around the house. Has not made a call on other ladies for 10 years. I think that pretty hard. Then our loved children. I am Job No. 2 and I have thought this for 15 years, still let me do God's will.

It is not for me to be counting my bliss and building my hopes in a region like this. I look for a city which hands have not spoiled. I part for a country by sin undefiled.

Now I would like to see you all. We are quite well but financially poor, have not money to pay life insurance, Maude pays it for me. I can work as well as ever. Could you and I start a store. I can sell dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, hardware, gents clothing, furnishings--as smart as ever.

Your affectionate brother,
Lewis A. Purdy

Brighton, Ontario 12/3/10



First Letter Received

103

Dec. 21, 1961

Dear Mr. Masten:

Miss Mallory gave me your letter which I found very interesting. I became curious about the "Turdy" background some years ago. Circumstances did not permit me to travel as you have done, but I did find out quite a bit that may shed additional light on your findings.

I hope to write you at length, early in the New Year giving you all the information I have.

I am a granddaughter of Jacob Turdy who was a brother of John Purdy. Have often heard my mother, Amelia Rose (nee Turdy), speak of her Cousin "Emmie" (your mother).

However, I thought I should drop you a line to let you know your letter had reached us here safely.

Very sincerely,

(Mrs.) Elva M. Hobbs 38
110 Rainsford Road
Toronto 8, Ont.
Canada

Geneological Material Received from Elva Hobbs, Granddaughter of Jacob Purdy

(Mrs. Hobbs help has been very valuable)

Jacob Purdy-n-Amelia Fretz (1st wife)
children-

Lewis Purdy-n-Margaret Oliver, Sunderland, Ont.
Ch-Ida, Ethel, Elizabeth, John, Lewis, Wesley, Aurilla

Ida married Joseph Patry-both dead. Their children were Emile, Fred, Frank, Lewis and Margaret. Emile and Frank are dead. Margaret married a dentist, is a widow living in Albany, New York, her daughter is living in Detroit and she has 2 children.

Fred is a psychiatrist and lived in Albany, N.Y. He married twice. Nan, his first wife died and they had 2 boys--Jack and Bill. Fred and his second wife, Irene, are now living at Bradenton, Florida. Fred's office is 1917 14th Street, W., Bradenton, Florida. He and wife expect to be in Toronto sometime in May next where he attends the American Psychiatric Association annual meetings to be held at the Royal York Hotel.

Ethel married Thomas Ford, no children and Ethel and Thos are both dead.

Elizabeth married Ross Connors and I believe both are dead. They had one boy, Clifford the last I heard about them.

John, Lewis, Wesley and Aurilla went west after their father died and we lost track of them.

Benjamin-n-Rachel Oliver, Sunderland, Ontario
children--Florence, Milton, Walter

Walter drowned when a little boy.

Milton married and lived near Cannington, Ont., he is dead. I think he had children.

Florence married Levi Spark has 1 child, Lee Spark. Florence's husband, Levi, was killed before Lee was born and she is now an invalid and living at Little Britain, Ont., Lee visits her and my brother Albert Rose has gone to see her several times. Rachel, Uncle Ben's wife left him and he died at my old home, Clarke Twsp.

Wesley-n-Margaret Sommerville-a teacher.

children--Nellie, Austin and Eva. Austin would be 12 or 13 years of age when he fell beneath the wheels of a train and died. The family were in Chicago at the time. Grandma had word of Wesley's death and the rest we lost track of.

Esther Purdy died young.

Amelia (Millie) n-John Rose, Bath, Ont. (my father and mother)
children--Alice, Elva and Albert Rose

Alice never married, living at our daughter Evelyn Potter's home at Richmond Hill, Ont.

Albert single and living at Evelyn's home also.

Elva (ne) n-Roy Hobbs, Ch-3 girls, 2 boys.

My daughter Grace Hobbs and I are living with my eldest son Elmer Hobbs, his wife Hattie and their 4 children--Roy, Esther, David and James.

Jane Ann-n-Ridley Purdy (widower) Sidney

1 child--Donald Ridley--Don married Luella McColl and they had 1 child Marion Jean Purdy. Don's wife married again and she and husband, with Marion went to Vancouver, Luella's second husband died. Marion married and is living at New Westminster. Marion is quite crippled--result of stroke.

Jacob Purdy-n-Hanna Fraser, Odessa, Ont. (2nd wife). They had a boy Donald Fraser Purdy. Don died in his twenties--if I remember right he had T.B. or pneumonia.

Now about mother (Millie) she was mentally disturbed for a number of years. Her mother died during an attack of measles (took a chill) when mother was not quite 2 years of age. Her father (my grandfather Jacob) had housekeepers for a time, then married Hannah Fraser. Mother told me she had "cried" herself to sleep many times wishing she had a mother of her own like other girls. We gave mother love and care, freedom to work or rest, and she recovered, but skrank from meeting strangers. She, too, took a chill which developed into influenza in 1928, the high fever wore her heart out and at the end of a week, she went into a coma during the night and passed away the following day. She left us a heritage of love and music. I never heard her speak ill of anyone, she had charity for all. She played the organ by ear and her beautiful alto voice was often heard singing the dear old gospel hymns. How we did love her, mother o'mine.

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This letter written by Elva Mae Hobbs is well worth including as a whole. While much is a repetition of information obtained from Dr. H. C. Burleigh, U.E.L. historian, its source is from Toronto, Ontario, Department of Public Records and Archives. Mrs. Hobbs is a granddaughter of Jacob Purdy of Sidney. Poth John and Jacob are sons of the original David Purdy of Bath and Collins Bay. JWM

110 Rainsford Road
Toronto 8, Ontario
Canada

January 26, 1962

Dear Cousin John,--

First I must thank you for the pictures. I was very, very, pleased to have them. I am returning Lillian Idella Purdy's as we have one of her. You will note correction on reverse side of same.

The reason for my delay is I am just now recovering from an attack of influenza, am still quite weak.

Will just give you some facts. I am a widow since 1922. My husband was killed on the farm where he was employed as foreman. We had three girls and two boys. The two boys are real estate salesmen. Grace is single (she and I are living with Elmer, wife and family-four). Evelyn and her husband and son live at Richmond Hill, Ontario. Irene is living with her son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren (her husband died of a heart attack in 1960).

My sister Alice and brother Albert (both single) live with Evelyn at Richmond Hill. Alice was 77, October 1, 1961 and Albert will be 71, February 13, 1962. I am 74 as of August 2, 1961. I was born the year your mother died, 1887.

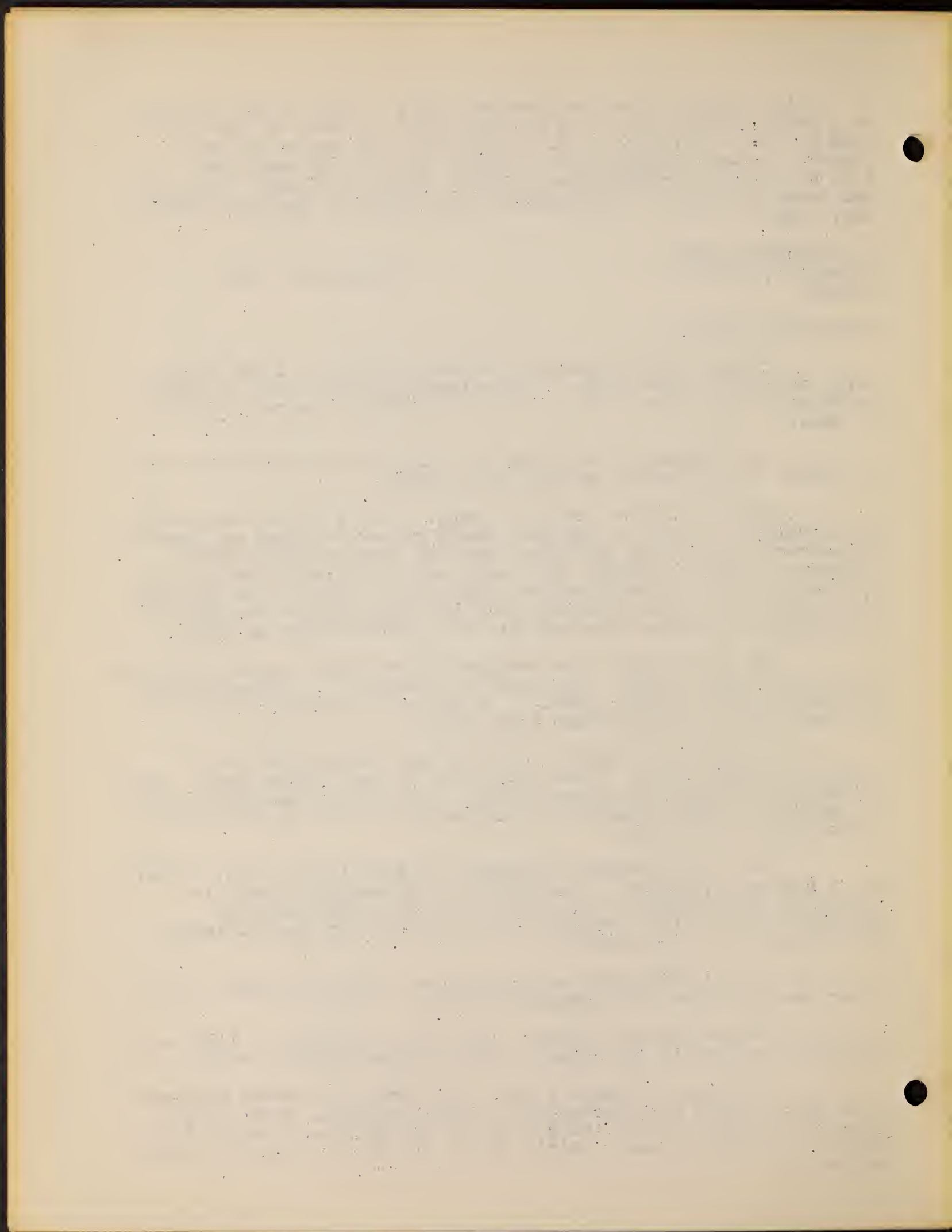
I suffered a severe stroke in May, 1959, have been a complete invalid since, cannot turn over in bed without help. Have a hospital bed which is a great help. Have sight, hearing, speech and memory so that is much to be thankful for. It is a long story which will have to wait.

Was not offended at any part of your letter, but, believe me, I need a secretary. I forgot to say my daughter Grace is Supervisor of Receipts at No. 1 Equip Depot. Downsview, Ont. R.C.A.F. has been (as civilian) with R.C.A.F. for over 20 years. She drives to and from daily.

Elmer's wife Hattie cares for me through the day, Grace takes over when she comes around 5:20 p.m.

We have Fannie Mallory visit us frequently. I like her very much but she is very frail, should not be alone so much.

Speaking of Ridley's boy, Will Purdy and Audrey Hagerman (his wife) I know his brother Fred died of cancer. Fred's boys name was Alfred and was living with his mother (Fred's wife) in 39 Trenton the last I heard. Rid's other boy, Harry, I have no information on.



I.

Purdy

Lot 29, Concession 7, township of Clarke, was located by Mrs. Mary Purdy, of the township of Kingston, widow of Gilbert Purdy, Sr.; U.E.: under an order-in-Council dated Nov. 16, 1797.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Gilbert Purdy, Sr., resided in the town of New Burgh, Ulster County, New York, Province. He joined the Corps of Guides and Pioneers in 1777 and died on his way to Philadelphia in 1778. He left a widow and four sons and four daughters, most of whom settled in Upper Canada in 1783. The children were as follows:

David, U.E., of Ernestown
 Gilbert, Jr., of Kingston
 Micajah, of Kingston
 Samuel
 Mercy, m. John Everitt, of Kingston
 Rhoda
 Mary
 Charlotte m. Nicholas Herchmer of Kingston

A Mrs. Mary Purdy died at Kingston on Dec. 26th, 1812, aged 79 years and 7 months.

David Purdy, U.E., of Ernestown, the eldest son, married Abigail, daughter of Ruliph Ostrum, U.E., and had the following children:

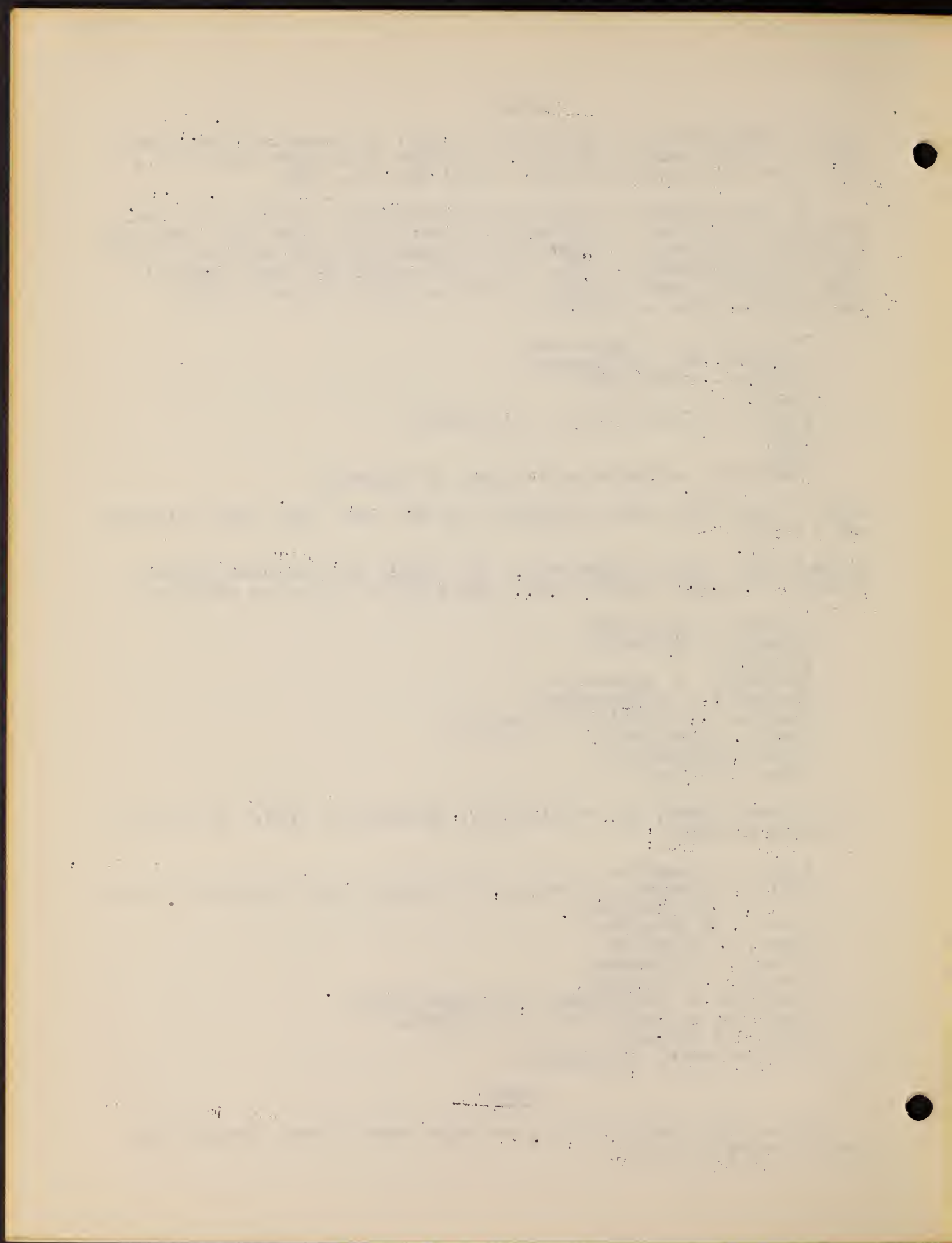
Gilbert of Ernestown
 Ruliph, of Ernestown
 Elizabeth
 Samuel D., of Ernestown
 Micajah D., of Ernestown
 Mary m. John Abbott, of Kingston
 Joseph, of Ernestown
 Jacob of Ernestown
 John, of Sidney

Gilbert Purdy, Jr; of Kingston, was born in 1762. He had the following children:

Hosea, of Kingston
 Mary, m. Joseph R. Caverly, of Kingston, son of Joseph Caverley,
 U.E. of Kingston.
 Samuel, of Kingston
 Jesse, of Kingston
 Gilbert, of Kingston
 Micajah, of Kingston
 Susannah, m. John Moore, of Loughborough.
 Charlotte m. Davis McCay, of Kingston
 David, of Kingston
 William James, of Kingston

Purdy

Major John Everitt, U.E., and wife Mercy (Purdy) Everitt had the following children:



Charles, of Kingston, m. Sarah, daughter of Davis Hawley,
U.E. of Ernestown
Esther, m. Peter Grass, of Kingston, son of Capt. Michael
Grass, U.E. of Kingston
Mary, m. William Walbridge, of Ameliasburgh
Daniel, of Kingston, m. Mary Ann, daughter of Davis Hawley,
U.E. of Ernestown
John, of Thurlow, m. Margaret Walbridge
Sarah Ann, m. Col. Thomas Coleman, of Bellville
Park, Thurlow
Mercy, m. Lewis Daly, of Kingston
Charlotte.

Major Everitt died at Kingston on June 28th, 1825, aged 82 years.

Nicholas Herchmer was a son of Capt. Hanyost. Herchmer. U.E.,
of Kingston, and nephew to the rebel General Nicholas Herkimer, who
was fatally wounded at the battle of Oriskany in August, 1777.

This information was given me July 5, 1933 and obtained from
Ontario Department of Public Records and Archives, Toronto,
Parliament Buildings.

Elva May Hobbs 40

Will try and collect some pictures for you later.

Bye now-Elva

Purdy

Jacob Purdy - m. Amelia Fretz (first wife) 71

Children

Lewis-m-Margaret Oliver - Sunderland, Ont.
Benjamin-m-Rachel Oliver-Sunderland, Ont.
David-m-Lydia Livingstone-Clark Twsp.
Wesley-m-Margaret Sommerville (school teacher)
Esther-died in childhood
Jane Ann-m-Ridley Purdy-widower of Sidney
Amelia-m-John Rose-Bath (my parents) mother known as "Millie"

Jacob Purdy-m-Hannah Fraser (2nd wife)
1 child - Donald Fraser Purdy died in late twenties.
Hannah Fraser (a school teacher) was a daughter of Daniel Fraser-Odessa, who was a Br Army engineer.

Fretz-Purdy and Rose

John Purdy-m-Ann Fretz
Jacob Purdy-m-Amelia Fretz
Joseph Rose-m-Aurilla Fretz

These three sisters were daughters of Allen Fretz. I have not found out who Allen Fretz's wife was--as yet. Dr. Burleigh may have the answer.

Rose

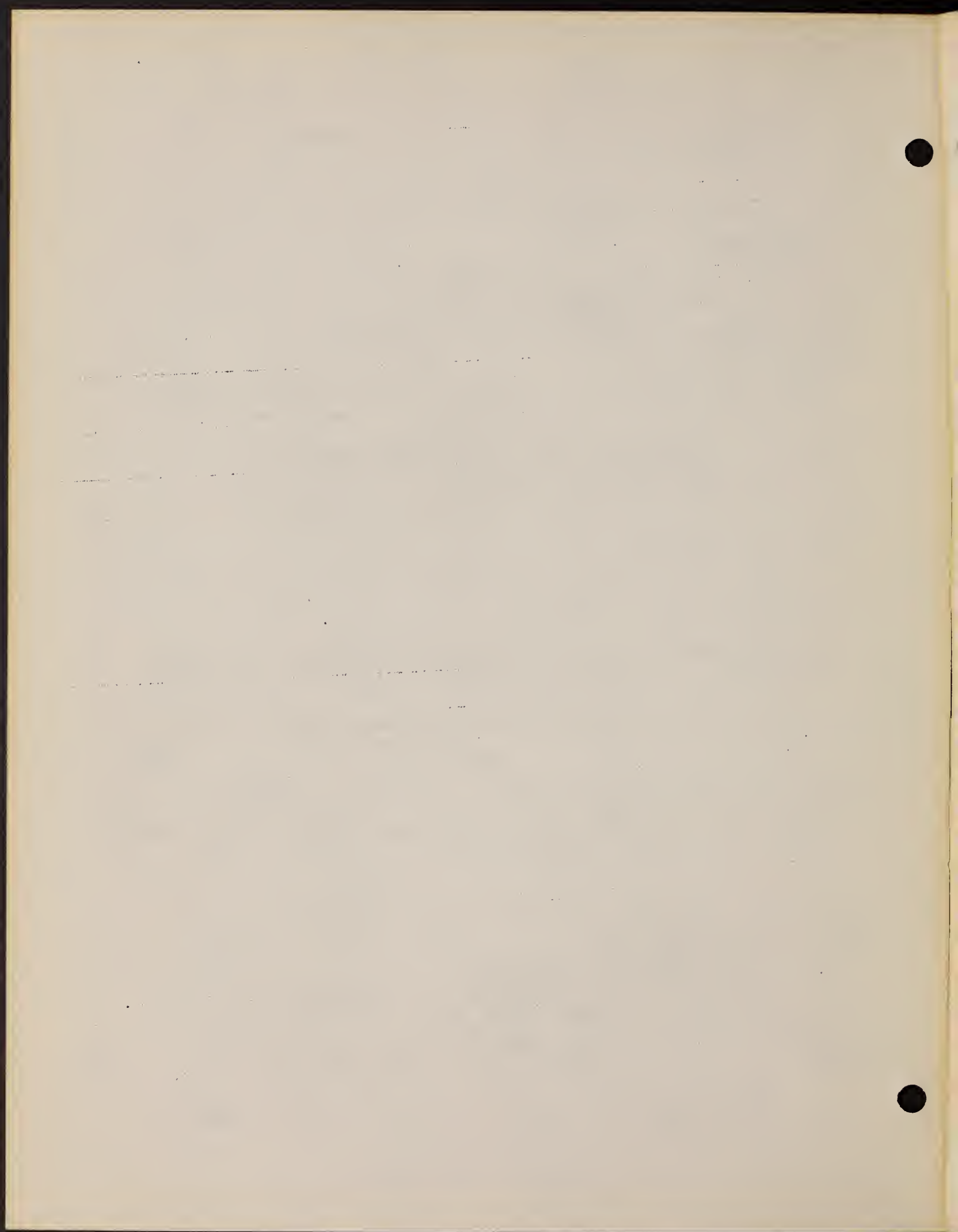
Joseph Rose born April 28, 1798.
Aurilla Fretz born Nov. 30, 1810
married March 2nd, 1830 by Rev. Thos Hancock associate minister of St. George Church, Kingston.

Children

Sarah Aurilla-m-Henry Armstrong-Bath
Margaret Ann-m-Henry Rayworth (widower) Bath
William Joseph-m-Charity Caton
Mary Louisa-m-Lewis Purdy-Brighton
Adelaide Atkinson-died in twenties.
Esther Elizabeth-m-John White-Bath
John Solomon-m-Amelia Purdy-Clark Twsp.
Ridley Mortimer
Dwit Allen -- These two boys remained single, went to S. Dakota, settled at Putney, S.D., and died there.

I have birth dates of the above children but do not think that important. Will fill in families of same in another letter.

EH



David Purdy-m-Lydia Livingstone (Clarke Twsp.)
children--Minnie, Emma, Miles Roland.

Miles Roland died in childhood. Emma married George Sheppherd and had Myrtle, Hallie and David. David Shepherd was in Chicago the last we heard. Myrtle married and I think, had 2 children. Hallie married and was living in Terre Haute, Indiana, last we heard. Emma was living with Hallie. Myrtle died. Emma's husband George was killed in a motor accident while they were in Chicago.

Minnie married Frank Willis, Chicago. He had a shoe store and later traveled, whether for the store or not I do not have information on. Minnie and Frank came several times on vacation to Canada with their only child, Mary Emma Willis. Mary married Walter Cohrs and they had a child, Mary Virginia Cohrs. Mary died and Minnie had a bad fall which left her getting about with a cane. She and Frank went to the Mayo Clinic, where they were told nothing could be done, Minnie just gave up and did not live much longer. I have snaps of Mary Virginia Cohrs, but do not know where she is, must be a young lady now.

Minnie's mother Lydia had several sisters living in Durham County--one Mary Livingstone-m-Isaac Chapman and lived just across a couple of fields from my home. Minnie and Emma were about the same age as Ida and Annie Chapman their first cousins. After mother's trouble they made Aunt Mary Chapman and Ida Thompson's (nee Chapman) homes their headquarters, when in Canada on vacation. They spent many days with mother too, and she was delighted.

Minnie and Emma's mother remarried after Uncle David died--married a cousin of my mother, Jacob Day.

Lydia and Jacob Day had a daughter, Martha Day. Martha Day married George Young and had a daughter Mabel Young, Mabel married Nelson Hughes of Detroit. Mabel and Nelson have a daughter, Barbara, living in Detroit. Mabel and her mother are both dead, Martha of a cerebral hemorrhage and Mabel of a stroke.

I came to Toronto with my family in 1930 and had rooms with Martha Young at 11 Yorkville Ave. The house was torn down about 4 years ago and an office building built on the lot. Martha Young was small, like myself, but with little education, learned like you the hard way, and was a clever business woman. I lived with her till she remarried a Harry Evans. I had learned enough about the city by this time so, my children and I, were on our own from then on.

I had only my entrence to high school and though I had made many mistakes had a high sense of humor and when things looked darkest could laugh. What a gift! You can understand, how in mother's condition, we got out of touch with so many relatives in later years. Did not value old letters as I would now.

More to follow, hope you have plenty of patience.

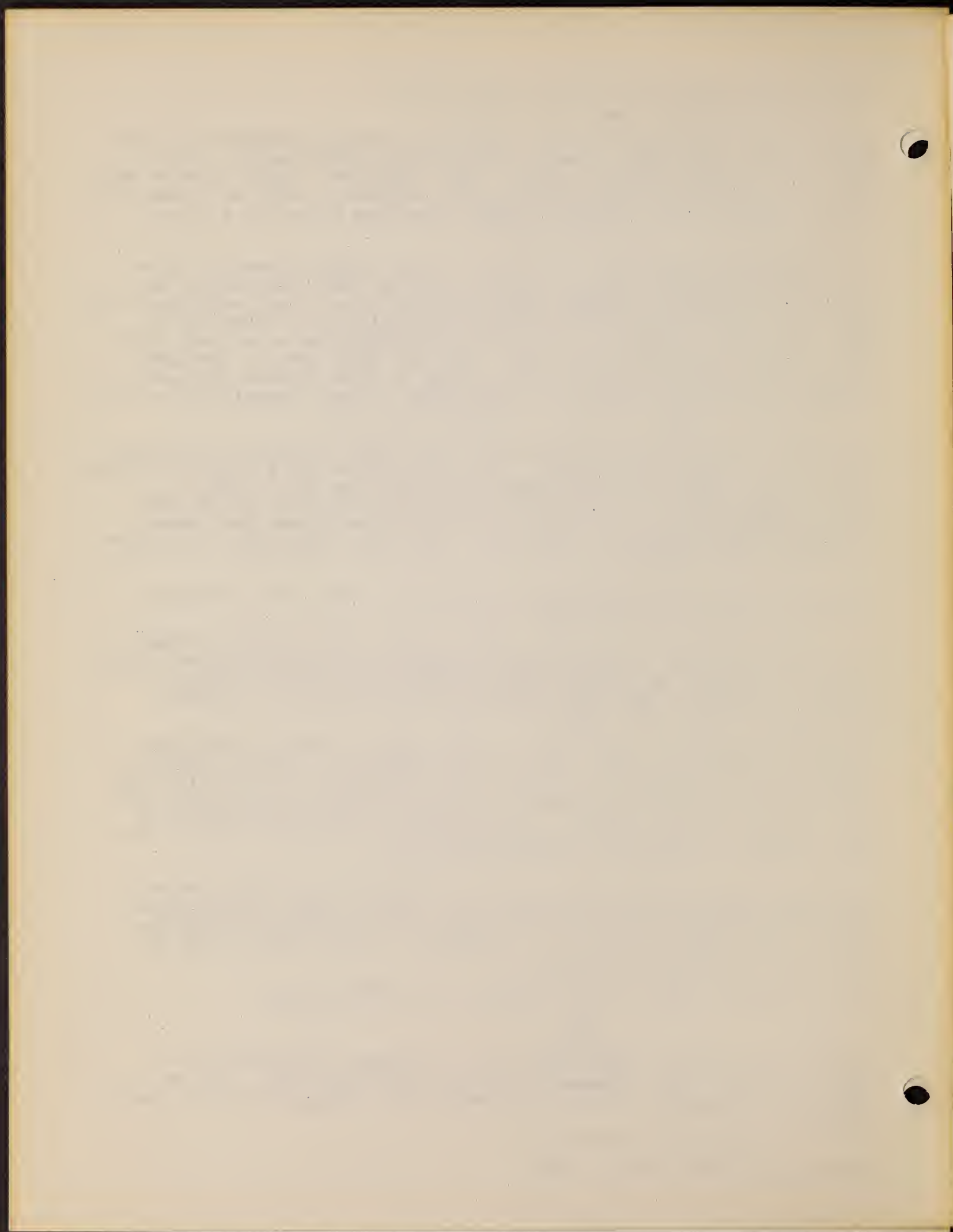
Elva H.

Rose

Joseph Rose born Apr. 28th, 1798 (my grandfather and Aurilla Fretz born Nov. 30th, 1810 (Grandmother Rose) married March 2nd, 1830 by Rev. Thos. Handcock, Associate minister of St. George Church, Kingston, Ontario.

Children of above---

Sarah Aurilla born March 6, 1831.



Margaret Ann born Sept. 29, 1832.
William Joseph born June 4, 1834.
Mary Louisa born Feb. 10, 1839.
Adelaide Atkinson born April 28, 1841.
Esther Elizabeth born March 21, 1843.
John Solomon (father) born Sept. 5, 1846.
Ridley Mortimer born Sept. 10, 1849.
David Allen born March 13, 1857.

Fretz-Purdy-Rose

John Purdy's wife Anna Fretz (your mother's parents)
Jacob Purdy's wife Amelia Fretz (mother's parents)
Joseph Rose's wife Aurilla Fretz (father's parents)

These three Fretz sisters were daughters of Allen Fretz. I have not found out who Allen Fretz's wife was before marriage. Dr. Burleigh, of Bath, may have the answer. I do not know whether Allen Fretz had more than these three girls in his family or not. 42

Sam Rose brother of Joseph Rose was married twice, don't know who she was (the first wife) but their daughter married John Caton and had 4 children--

Arch Caton
Cam
Emma
Charity

Sam's 2nd wife was Miss Haybee
they had a daughter Mary Rose
who married a Latimer.

Charity Caton married Wm. Rose (my father's brother)
--4 children--Will, Margaret, Harvey, Sprae Rose

Harvey and Will are living near St. Catherines. Will is a widower. Margaret unmarried living with her niece, Mrs. Moore, in Kingston. Sprae married Bernard Brown living with her son Lorne Brown and family. Sprae's husband Bernard in poor health, living near Bath with Sprae at their son's home.

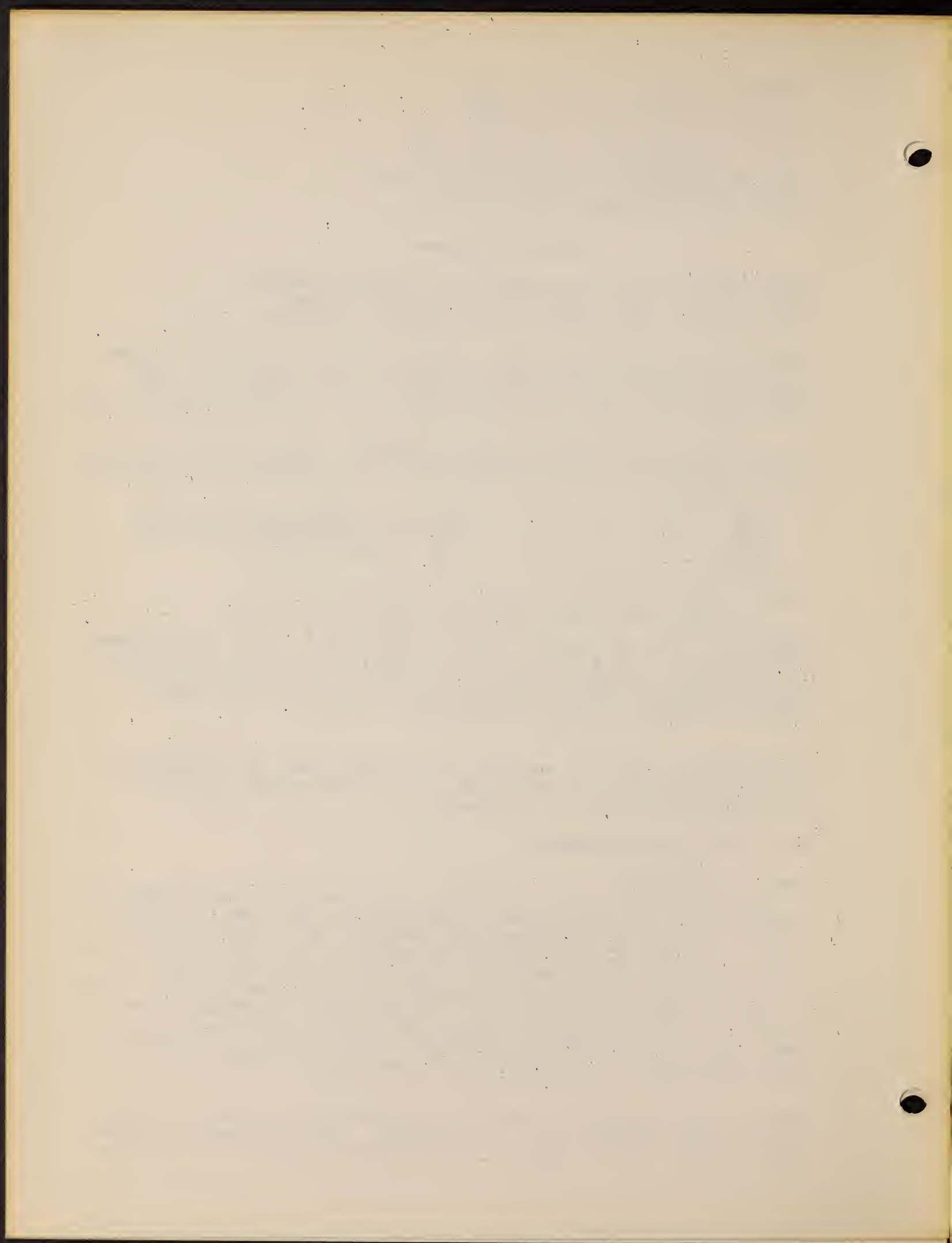
The following letter I received in 1933 from Mrs. J. B. Maxwell, B.A. Historian with the York and Sunbury Historical Society--
Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Mr. & Mrs. Hobbs--Toronto

Dear Mrs. Hobbs:

You will find much of interest re the Loyalist Purdy family in "Second Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Prov. of Ontario 1904." This report which you can probably see in the public library is a copy of the Loyalist testament on the stand relating to their property conditions before their emigration from New England. Among other things (page 780) Gabriel Purdy said he lived at Philip Manor, New York, also produces lease and release from Samuel and Winifred Purdy. Father and Mother of Clément, to Jacob Purdy, Henry, Gilbert, Gabriel, Sam'l & Gilb., of all the right which Sam'l & Winifred had in the estate of the grandfather under his will.

Gabriel Purdy stated he had served with Guides & Pioneers afterward in Col. DeLancy's Reg. as Sergeant. The testimony was taken Nov. 2, 1786 at St. John, N.B. The report referred to gives fur-



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ther information about the property. Some of the Purdy family settled in New Brunswick for the Crown Lands Office records show that grants of land were obtained by Daniel Purdy in 1784 in St. John (town lot) N.B.

Gilbert Purdy in 1784 in St. John (town lot) N.B.

Gilbert Purdy in 1817 on the line between St. John & Kings Counties, N.B.

Gilbert Purdy in 1825 in Parish of Westfield Kings Counties, N.B.

Obadiah Purdy in 1825 in Parish of Westfield Kings Counties, N.B.

Also Gilbert and Thos Purdy applied 1785 for a grant of land which they did not get.

I remember and knew a Catholic family of Purdy living in Fredericton when I was a child but they are not here now.

The name of Purdy has always been prominent in St. John--the steamer that runs now between Fredericton and St. John is called "the J.D. Purdy". 43

Hoping I have been of some assistance

I remain yours truly

Lillian H. Maxwell
(Mrs. J. Brown Maxwell)

From Mrs. M. H. Hobbs
110 Rainsford Rd.
Toronto 8, Ontario
Canada

March 15, 1962

Dear Cousins:

You say in your last letter that you need two weeks to properly digest my latest letter. You know this family tree of ours has so many limbs, branches and twigs that I gave up climbing long ago, before I knew you even existed.

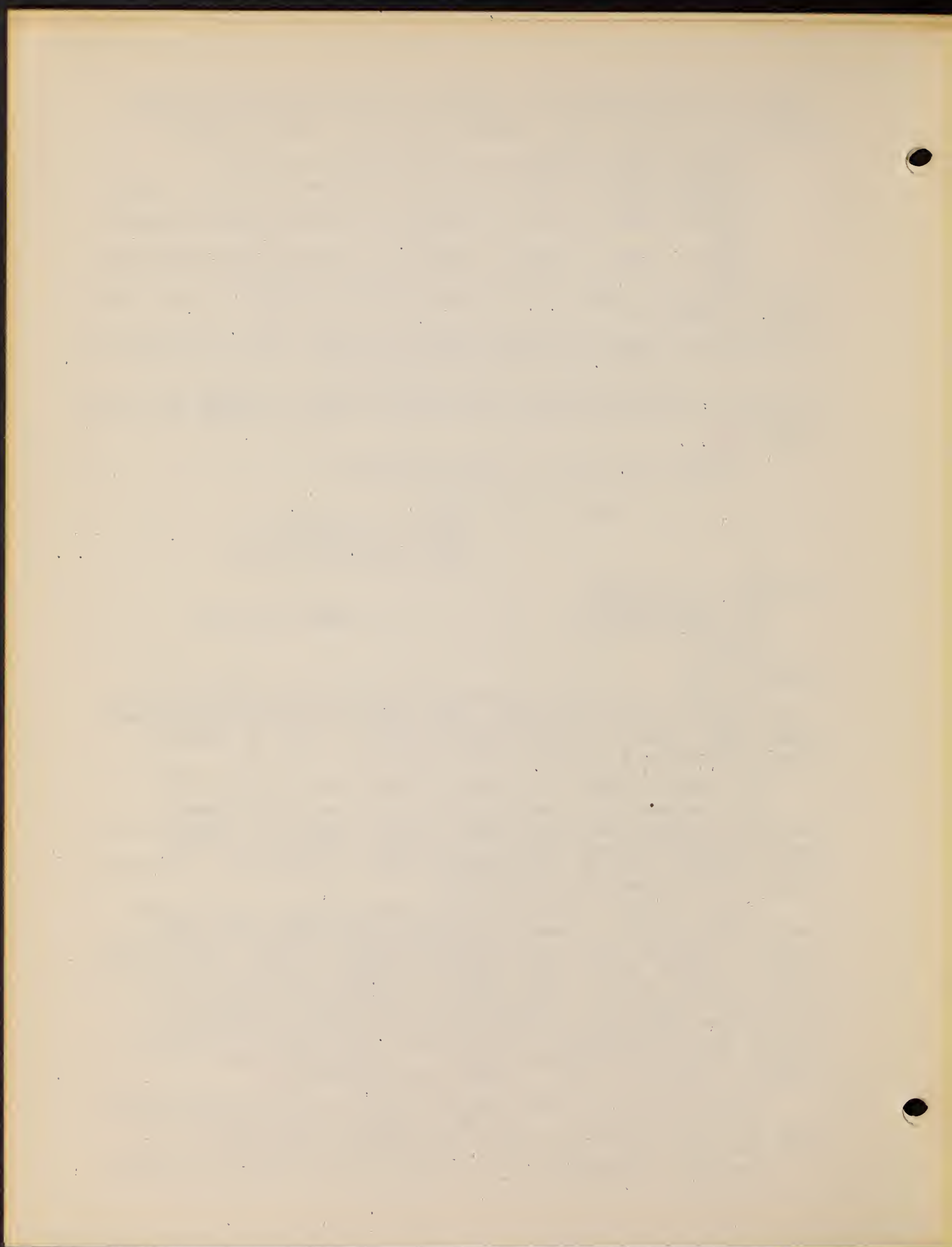
Did you note that I was born the year your mother died?

Now, to your last letter--did I tell you that my uncle, Sam Rose (brother of Joseph Rose) married twice, his second wife was a Maybee and their daughter Mary Rose married a Latimer. Fannie Mallory told me the Latimers lived in Brighton. I believe there must be some connection here.

Fannie H. did not know Lev A. Purdy's Maude while Ida and Frank were living. I have an obituary notice here that gives typhoid fever as the cause of Frank's death. Fannie thinks Ida's death was fever also. Fred died of Rheumatic fever. He suffered from exposure while in the Klondike. Maude went to the coast and brought him home. Ida's-Harry Claude died of pneumonia in Toronto Gen. Hospital--age 77--spring of 1961--was buried in family plot--at Brighton. My two sons, my brother, and Harry's friend Ambrose Torpey were bearers. Harry, at one time was wealthy, but lost it all. Maude died of cancer. 44

Harry's wife was Helen Fraser, daughter of Anastasia Hix and the late Reuben Fraser. She died in Trenton Memorial Hospital Nov. 2, 1951--buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, Brighton. 45

The only information mother gave me about Ruliff, a brother



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of John^{and} Jacob, was that his daughter married a Dorland.

In mother's old autograph album is an entry signed Julia Dorland. I have asked my sister to bring the album when next she comes to visit. It may have an address, as some entries do in these albums.

Mary--sister of Ruliff--married twice. 46

(We must bear in mind that Elva Mae Hobbs is a granddaughter of Jacob Purdy, who is a brother of John Purdy. We must remember that Jacob and John married the Fretz sisters, Anna and Amelia. The information given about the Lev A. Purdy family (Lev is another brother of Sam and Ridley and my mother) is not known elsewhere.) J.W.H.

Mary's first husband was John Abbott and second an Elderbeck-Children--James and Charlie Elderbeck.

Gilbert Purdy, brother of Jacob and John married a Gould. 47
Gilbert lived with Jacob (mother's father) for some time, was almost blind, owing to illness in the home, mother asked him if he would go down to his brother Joseph's for the winter. He said "Yes, Millie, if you will get me ready."--The tears came as mother said--"Mary (her pet name for me) I have always been sorry I let him go, he was a dear old man, maybe I could have managed some how."

No, I have never heard anything to discredit your grandfather, 48
John Purdy, in any way. Cancer is a terrible thing. Insanity is something not really understood, even today, except that it is an illness the same as any other disorder of the body. I hesitate to pass an opinion where more able brains than mine are not too sure of grounds for their findings.

A dear pastor of ours leaned over the pulpit once and after a long pause asked "Did you ever thank God for your reason?" I have often done just that many times since.

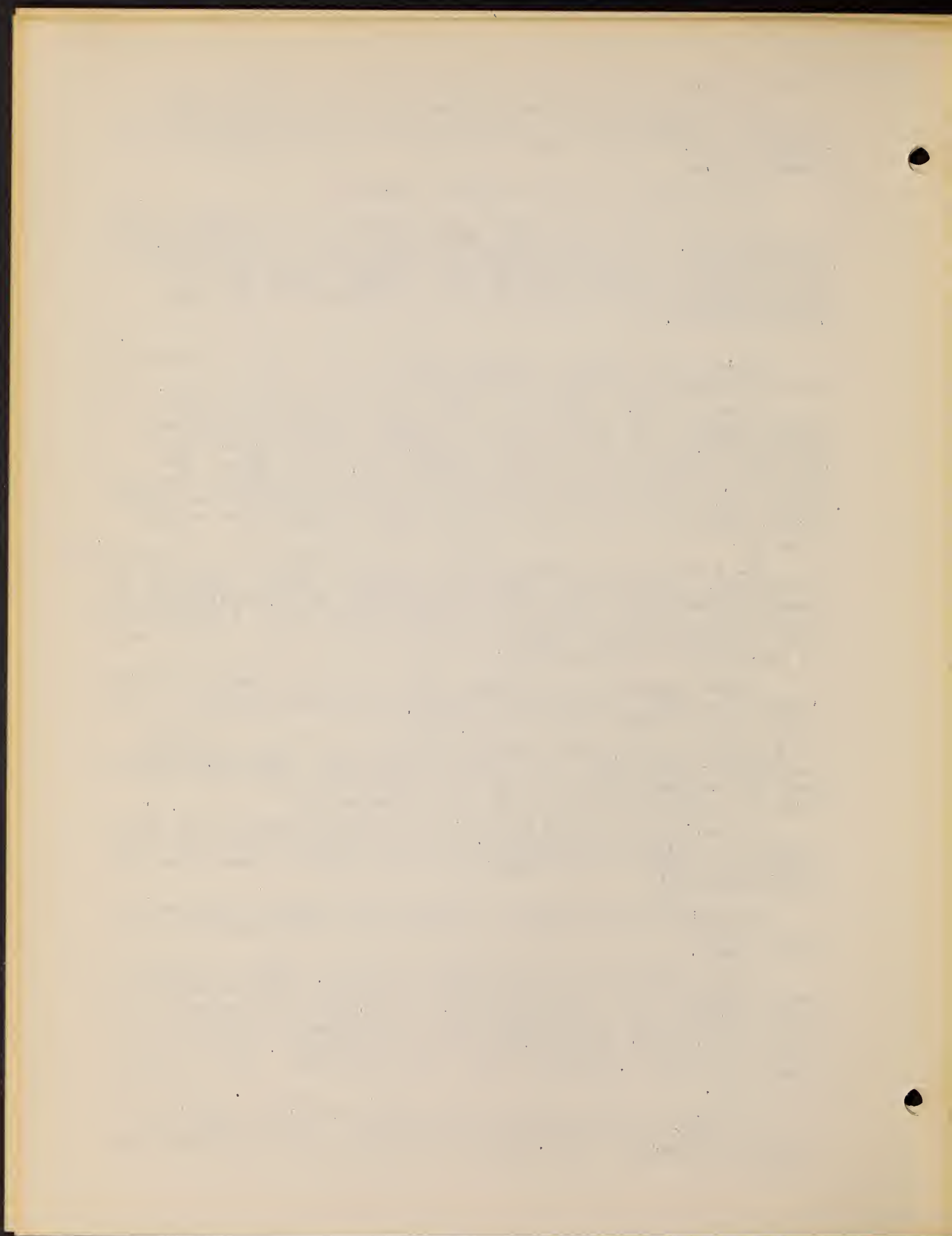
49 About Aunt Jane Ann (mother's sister) she had a difficult position to fill there is no doubt about that. Four step-children and she lost one or more of her own before Don was born. That kind of a husband Uncle Ridley was, I cannot say.

Mother's step-mother Hannah, her father's second wife, had a difficult position to fill too. Six step-children and one of her own. (Little Esther being dead, I did not count her among the six step-children).

The first wives families perhaps do not receive the love and understanding that all children require to develop healthy minds and bodies.

Mother told me she "often cried herself to sleep wishing she had a mother of her own like other girls had." You do not know how grateful I am to God (the giver of all good and perfect gifts) that I have known both mother and father's love. You can be thankful too, I'm sure your dear mother loved you two boys better than life itself. Your dad was wise to keep you. Tell me about your dad.

Don--son of Jane Ann and Ridley had a daughter, Marion Jean Purdy. Marion had pituitary gland trouble. At four years she weighed 90 pounds. She, Marion, her husband, and her mother live



in New Westminster B.C. Her mother was Luella McColl. Luella remarried after Don's death, a Mr. Waldron. Mr. Waldron died some years ago.

If I do not always make things plain--tell me.

While I do not despise riches I must confess I am afraid of them, so often they have seemed to draw their possessor away from God.

I am enclosing an article which I clipped from The Evening Telegram--a Toronto paper.

I believe with Charles Pitt that "The greatest enemy in the Americas today is knowledge without God."

I will tell you in a later letter about all the Joseph Rose Aurilla Rose (nee Fretz) children, who married and the children's families.

I gather you are still busy on "The Purdy Tree."

Grandfather Jacob Purdy raised his family on the old farm-- Lot 29 - Con 7 - Clarke Twp. Probably the reason you did not locate it is that it has not been under the Purdy or Rose name for a long time. A farmer by the name of Ball has it now. The house has been altered. My brother built, or had built, the big barn that is there now also set out the cedar hedge. There used to be a large apple orchard to the south of the house and trees about the house, lilac bushes, rose bushes, and shrubs. A beautiful spot with a view for miles around. There are very few of my age in the district now.

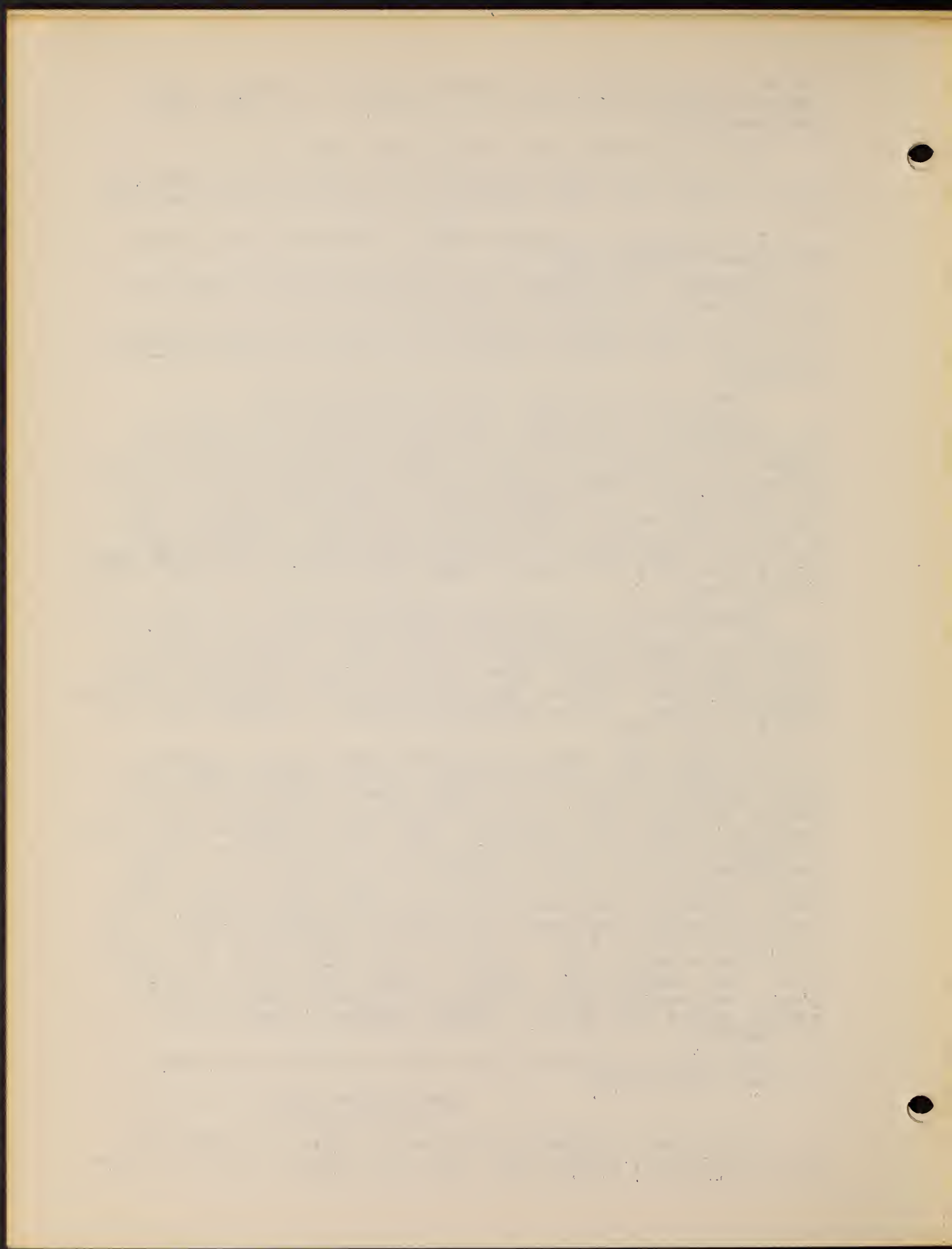
Grandfather's sight was poor the later years of his life. I remember, as a child, leading him to the well where he pumped the water and I told him when the pail was full. On the way to and from I guided him around uneven ground or stones. He used to sing about the house, or mostly hum "The Lord is my Shepherd" to the old Covenant's tune. Are you familiar with it? One seldom hears it sung that way today.

I do know just what a blow it must have been to you and Hazel to part with a loved daughter. I don't know a great deal about Hodgkin's disease, but I often wonder whether some of these strange ailments have come to us since the old and new worlds became so closely knit together. Many parts of Ontario this winter have been battling a time of Influenza that is really virulent. One believes it gone and in the matter of a week, it is on deck again. Fever up to 103, and our Roy, 9 year old, and my younger son 42 years old, delirious but not for more than 24 hours. We used to have what our local doctors called "Grippe" which was not a patch compared to this. I am not too strong and it took me over six weeks to really win. Perhaps it works like D.D.T. on insect life. The remedies only produced tougher and stronger insects. Insects are one reason for my liking of winter, fall and early spring, rather than summer. Summer provides a change anyhow. I am thankful.

Now this is all for now, but will work on the Rose-Fretz problem next Epistle.

Love and best wishes to you all,
Elva Mae Hobbs

PS Lillie Purdy, daughter of Ridley and Annie Purdy (Ireland) was a fun-loving, affectionate girl and a worker, very fond of her



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Aunt Millie (my mom). She was killed in a crossing accident with a train.

(Lillie came to a tragic end. She was one of the four children of Riddleys cared for at their mothers, Annie Ireland's death by my mother Emma. My album contains many pictures without names. One was of Lillian. Elva May recognized it at once for me) JH

Toronto, Apr. 16, 1962

Dear Cousins,

A real welcome awaits you and Hazel, here anytime you are able to come. I trust you will forgive my not saying so long ago. Just getting old and over looking some important things.

You will be interested to know that a great grandson of Jacob Purdy (my grandfather) will be in Toronto sometime during May to attend a Psychiatric Convention at the Royal York Hotel. Dr. Fred Patry of Bradenton, Florida. Fred's mother was Ida Patry (nee Purdy) a granddaughter of Jacob. Fred's grandfather was Lewis Purdy, my mother's brother. If I can find out when the convention is to be held will let you know. It would be interesting to meet here.

Now to your letters--I thoroughly enjoyed the bulletin which I enclose with this. Could I secure a copy anywhere? The Gilbert of the bulletin must be the almost blind old gentleman, who lived with my grandfather Jacob for some time. No, he was not the one I used to lead to the well for water, but my own grandfather, Jacob Purdy.

I have a number of obituary notes here which you may check when you come. One is of Anthony Rankin, son of David and Eliza Rankin (nee Purdy). Eliza was daughter of Joseph Purdy, (brother of Jacob, John, Sam, etc.) David and Eliza had four children according to the obit-. Dr. W. H. Rankin of Brooklyn N.Y., Mrs. Ida Losel and Mrs. R. J. Bushell of Kingston, and Anthony Rankin (M.P.P.) for Frontenac, elected in 1911, held that position for 15 years. You no doubt have the above information from Dr. Burleigh. In closing I have some information on the Rose-Fretz families which when complete will forward.

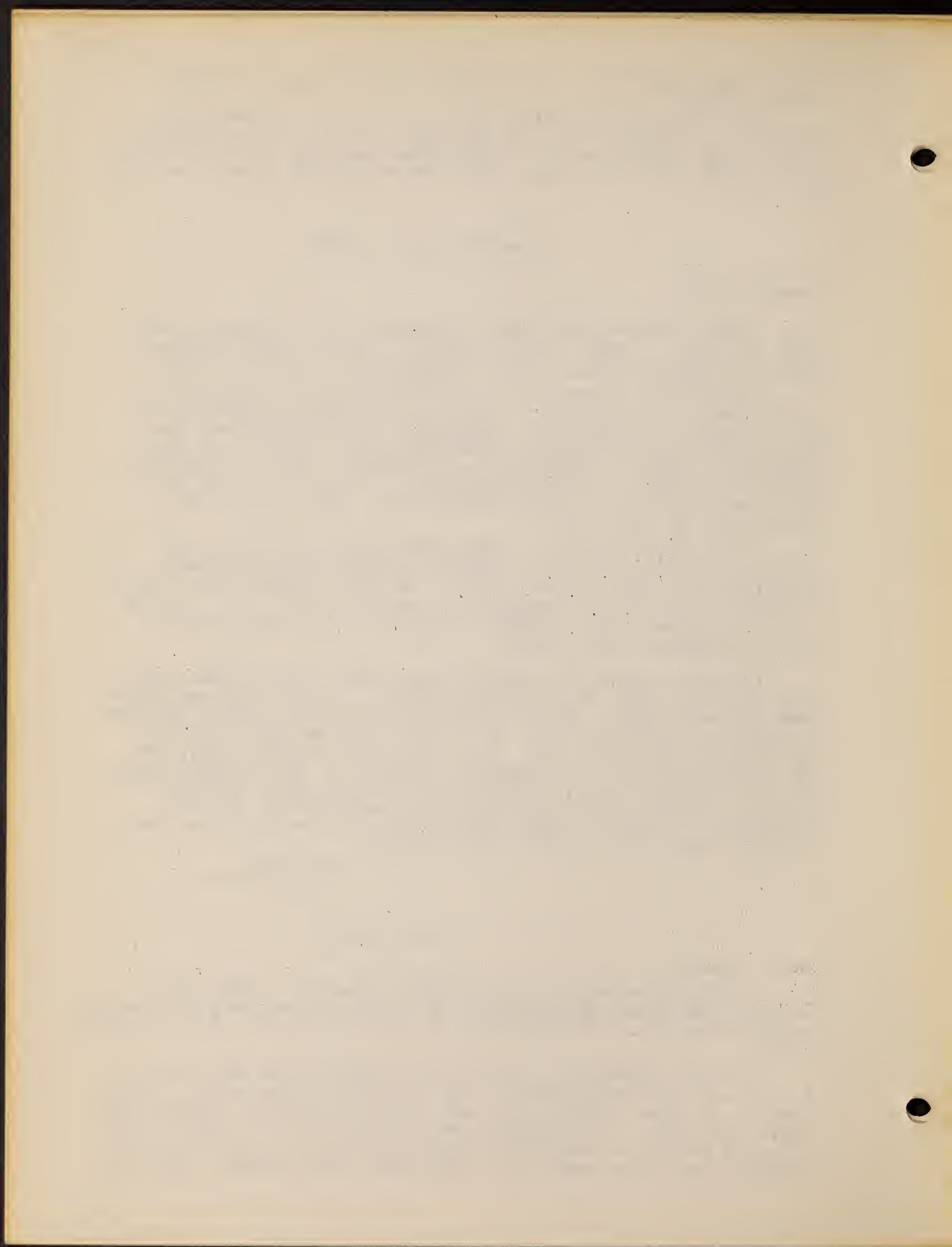
As always,
Cousin Elva H.

May 3, 1962

Dear Cousins,

Thank you so much for your Easter greetings. The extra bulletin and other information. Yes, you did send me a picture of your mother Emma. Also you told me a little about Nellie and Elsie Purdy.

One was a teacher. The picture I sent you of my sister and I, was taken in the forties. Time and illness has made a great change. I often wonder, as I read about the various Purdys, what their faith was. All that the work gives does not amount to anything in the end. Our homes should be like the little home in Bethany, where the Saviour was loved and made welcome, and where



his power over death was revealed. Yes, I too am very very sorry Fannie Mallory is so ill. She and Maude (Lou's Maude) lived on Queen East with Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Ward and David (a boy about seven years) Mrs. Ward was Fannie's niece. Mrs. Ward died quite suddenly of cancer and Maude soon after (within a year). The shock was too much, and Fannie's health and finally her mind became involved. She was very lonely and frail. Now they fear she will have to go to a home for the mentally ill at Whitby. She seems to have brief periods when her mind seems clear. Then her talk is very disjointed. If she could have remained in the Queen St. home and had a patient understanding person to care for her the result would have been different. This is my opinion.

Now back to the Purdy tree. My brother Albert has the original grant issued to Mary Purdy in 1802. You would like to see that so you had better make the grade and visit us. I also have copies of the petitions for land (crown lands) made by Mary Purdy (widow of the first Gilbert). Gilbert Purdy II, and Charlotte Purdy.

It is Dr. Fred Latry who we expect to visit us sometime in May. Fred is a great grandson of my grandfather Jacob Purdy. He knows very little about those outside his own brothers and sisters.

50 Mother (Millie) lists her Uncle Joseph's family as follows: Jacob, David, John, Samuel, Sarah, and Eliza.

51 Her Uncle Samuel's family as: Ralph, Joseph, Samuel, Charlie, Eliza Ann and Sarah Jane.

Eliza (daughter of Joseph) married David Rankin and, according to an obit. which I have, had at least four children as follows: Anthony McQuin Rankin, M.P.P., Dr. W.H. Rankin, Brooklyn N.Y. Mrs. Ida Losel, Kingston, and Mrs. R. J. Bushell, Kingston.

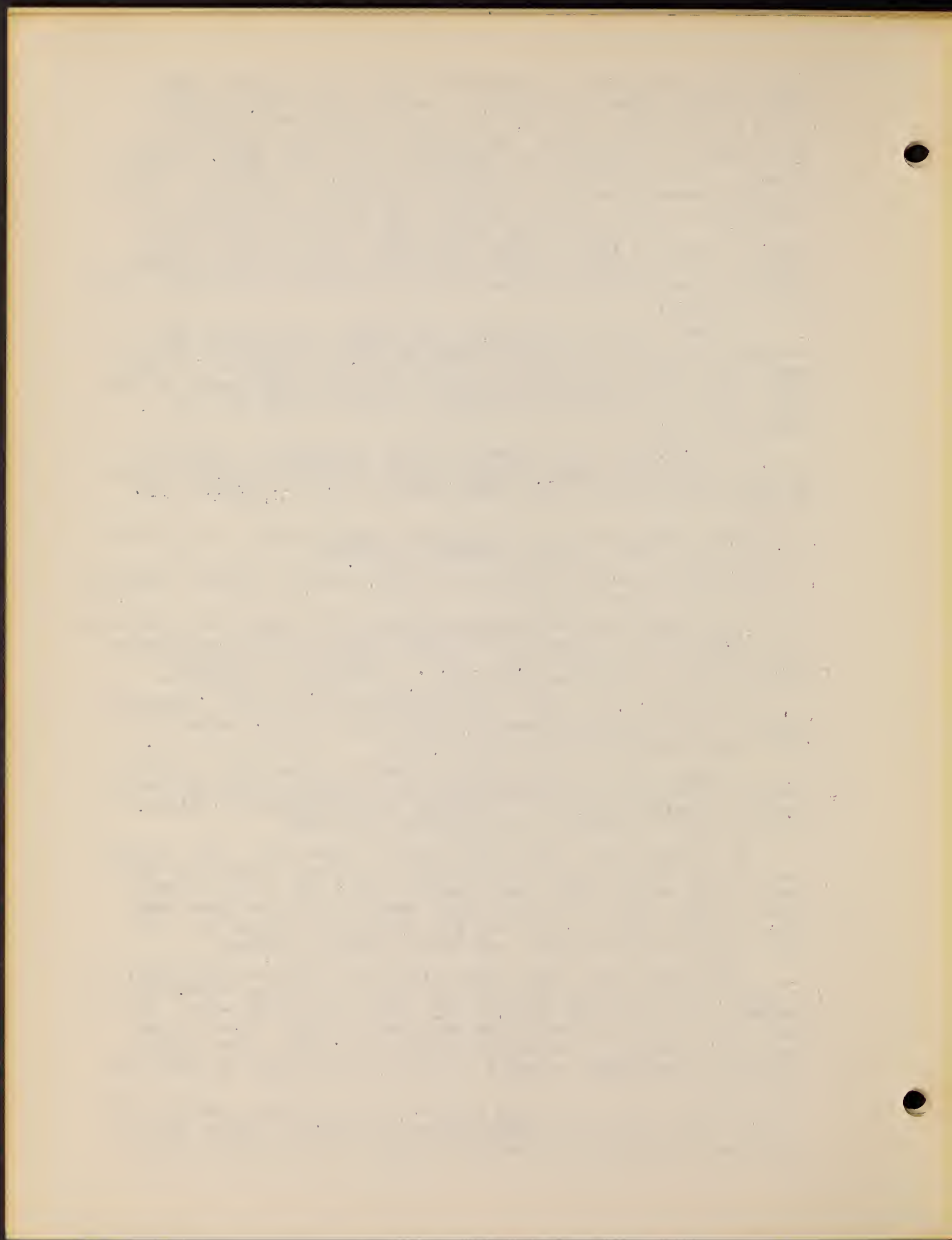
By another obit., Mrs. Edna Gordon (mother of Dr. Vernon 52 Purdy's wife) was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Farley Young. Mrs. Gordon was buried at Wooler, Ont.

I wonder does the above ring a bell? I know you, in your letters, mentioned a relationship with the Farley's of Bellville, Trenton, Wooler District. I thought possibly that Dr. Vernon Purdy's wife and Vernon may be related way back.

My sister Alice spent a day with me last week. She brought some of the old pictures of mother's relatives. I did not find one of your mother Emma, but a rather faded one of your Grandfather John Purdy. I am enclosing same and, if you have none like it, you may keep it. The two autographs in the old album are signed--Carrie Dorland and Julia Dorland, Trenton.

I hope you will bring a few of the old pictures you have. I regret not having asked more questions of both my mother and my father. What a family tree on all sides might have been. My aunts and uncles on both sides have passed away. Also a good many first cousins. We keep in touch with quite a few second cousins at Christmas, usually adding a short letter to cards of greetings.

I think fall a splendid time to visit Canada. Not too early if one wants to see the autumn trees in glorious dress, and at the same time escape the hords of "mosquitoes" in the northern



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holiday land -- "Huskoka".

Anyway, whenever you decide to come some one here will drive you out to the old Jacob Purdy farm. Many trees and a big orchard are gone, but I still feel "a stirring in my veins" looking even at pictures of old familiar scenes. The greatest change has been in the house, wood and drive, shed and barns. The long view is still the same.

Love and a-waiting welcome to you both.
Cousin Elva Hobbs

23 Lascelles Blvd.
Apt. 1206
Toronto, Ont.
Dec. 11, 1961

Dear Cousins Hazel and John,

Thank you for the letter which I received a short while ago and did enjoy hearing from you and also appreciated the pictures you sent.

It is nice to have the one with grandmother and grandfather together as I didn't have one. I showed it to father and mother and they were also pleased that you sent that one especially. We all liked the colored pictures of Hazel, Mother and father which you took while here.

Iona Oakes was showing me some interesting snaps also. I certainly take care of all the family pictures that I have and when I get some spare time, intend getting a special album for them.

I have a very nice picture of my mother when she was about two years old and also one of her mother "Mary Corigall", nineteen years of age, both taken near Bellville.

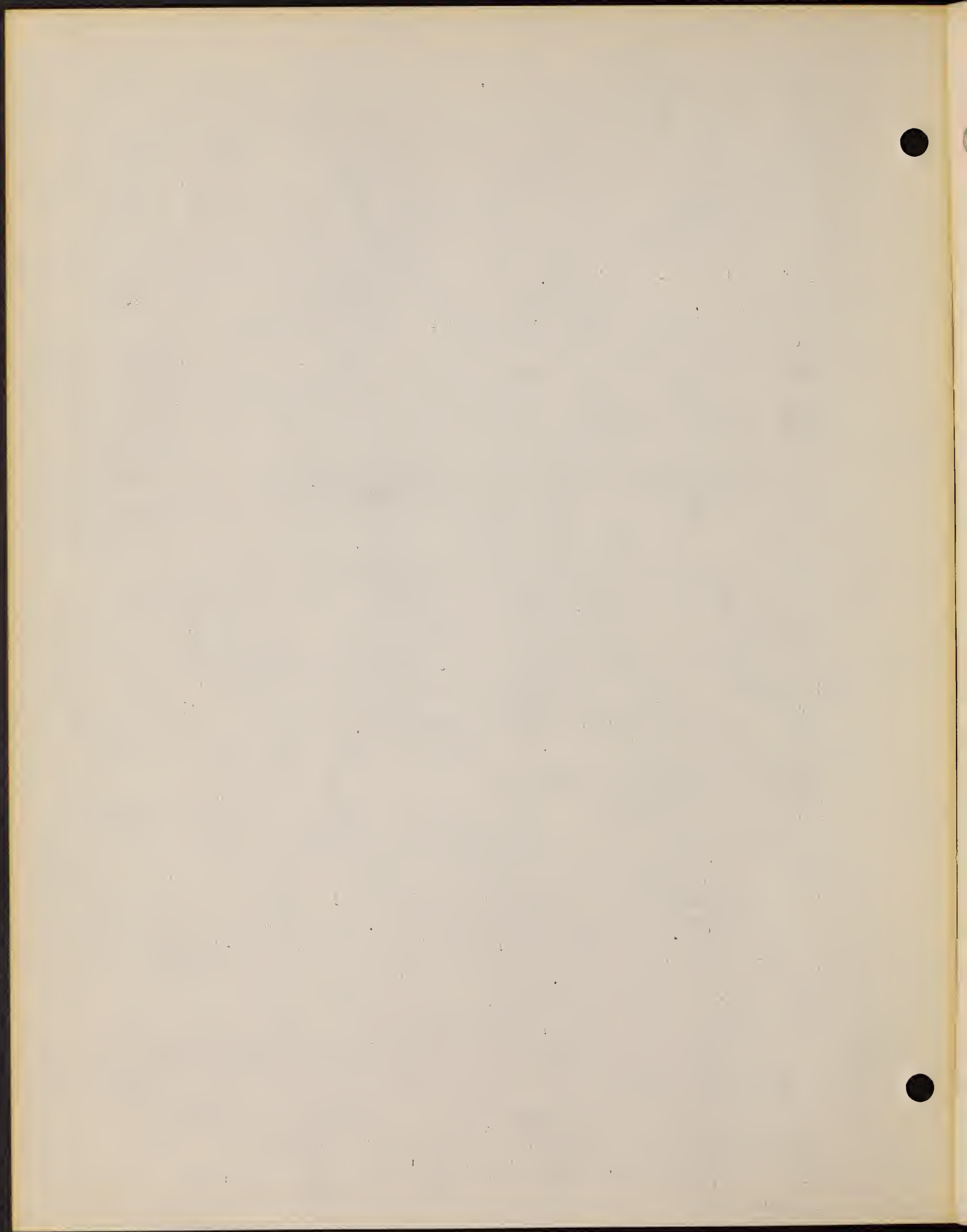
My mother and her sister next younger than herself both went to Whitby Ladies College here. I think that long ago--(almost 70 years) there weren't too many in that community that did attend a special ladies college. Her father (my grandfather) Charles Hagerman was quite a violinist.

My oldest brother Dr. Vernon Purdy was married on the 17th of August and his daughter Pamela was married the 30th of September and it was surely a fashionable wedding and a large reception (about 400 guests) so you went home too soon.

Father and mother were not there as the whole affair would have been too much excitement for mother, but they had a share of the party anyway, as we took some of the wedding cake and flowers to them in the evening. Mother's sister's girl came up for the wedding and they enjoyed a visit with her as they hadn't seen her for some time.

My brother who was married in August decided to have their honeymoon later so went on the Caribbean Cruise and will be back home before long now and just received a card a few days ago from them at the Barbados, so guess it takes quite a time for mail to come.

I think it is wonderful all the information which you have gathered for the study and am sure my oldest brother and others



will appreciate it very much. His first wife was Marjorie Gordon, a lovely girl but unfortunately had very poor health for years. His present wife is the sister of Garfield Weston, the owner of the Weston Biscuit Company here in Canada and England.

Thank you for the invitation to visit you sometime. I am sure I would find it enjoyable and most interesting as I have never been to California, but have read about the places which you mentioned, also am proud to get acquainted with my very fine American cousins.

I think it is remarkable after all these years that you came back and found us all and I know it has done my father so much good.

I am quite busy these days with getting ready for Xmas and, of course, doing for mother too. I seem to have a constant anxiety about mother as she isn't too well and then being 86 years of age. I never want to be out of Toronto more than a few days at a time as she does depend on me.

However, I may sometime in the future take a trip and would certainly visit you if I went west.

Thanks again for the interesting letter and the pictures which I do appreciate. I hope you and yours have a most enjoyable Xmas.

Sincerely
Winifred Purdy Ellis

23 Lascelles Blvd.
Apt. 1206
Toronto 7, Ont.
March 3, 1962

Dear Cousins Hazel and John,

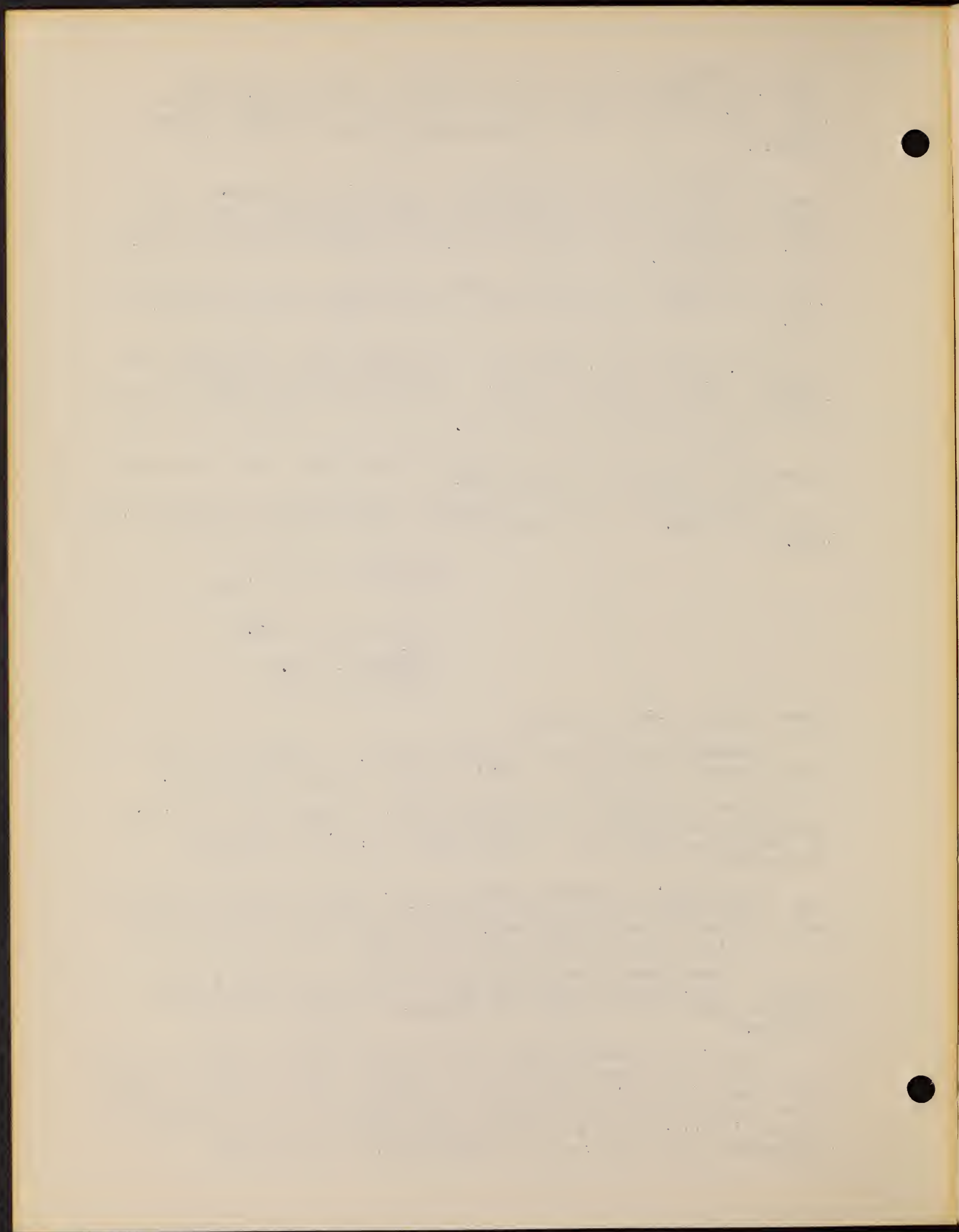
I received your letter on this evening. I must say I was a bit upset on realizing I hadn't replied to your last letter.

However, I had a letter partly written with answers to your questions which father gave me a few weeks ago, so you may know my intentions have been good and please don't think me to neglectful.

My daughter's children have had considerable illness this fall and winter and have taken some attention, also I get up to mother and fathers at least once a week, and often twice a week so you may know I do not have much time for extras.

I enjoyed very much the pictures which you mailed in this letter. Your country home must have been a most beautiful and valuable property with such and extensive nursery and fine location.

Well this is evening and already about eleven o'clock and will try to get some account off to you without further delay and hope what I send will be helpful for your records. I have been speaking to my brother Vern and apparently last summer when you phoned the office, his secretary took the message in the outer office and neglected to tell him so he did not know you had phoned.



I wouldn't want you to have a wrong impression of my brother Vernon as he is highly thought of by the best and conscientious person and has been wonderful to my mother and father all through the years and most generous with them.

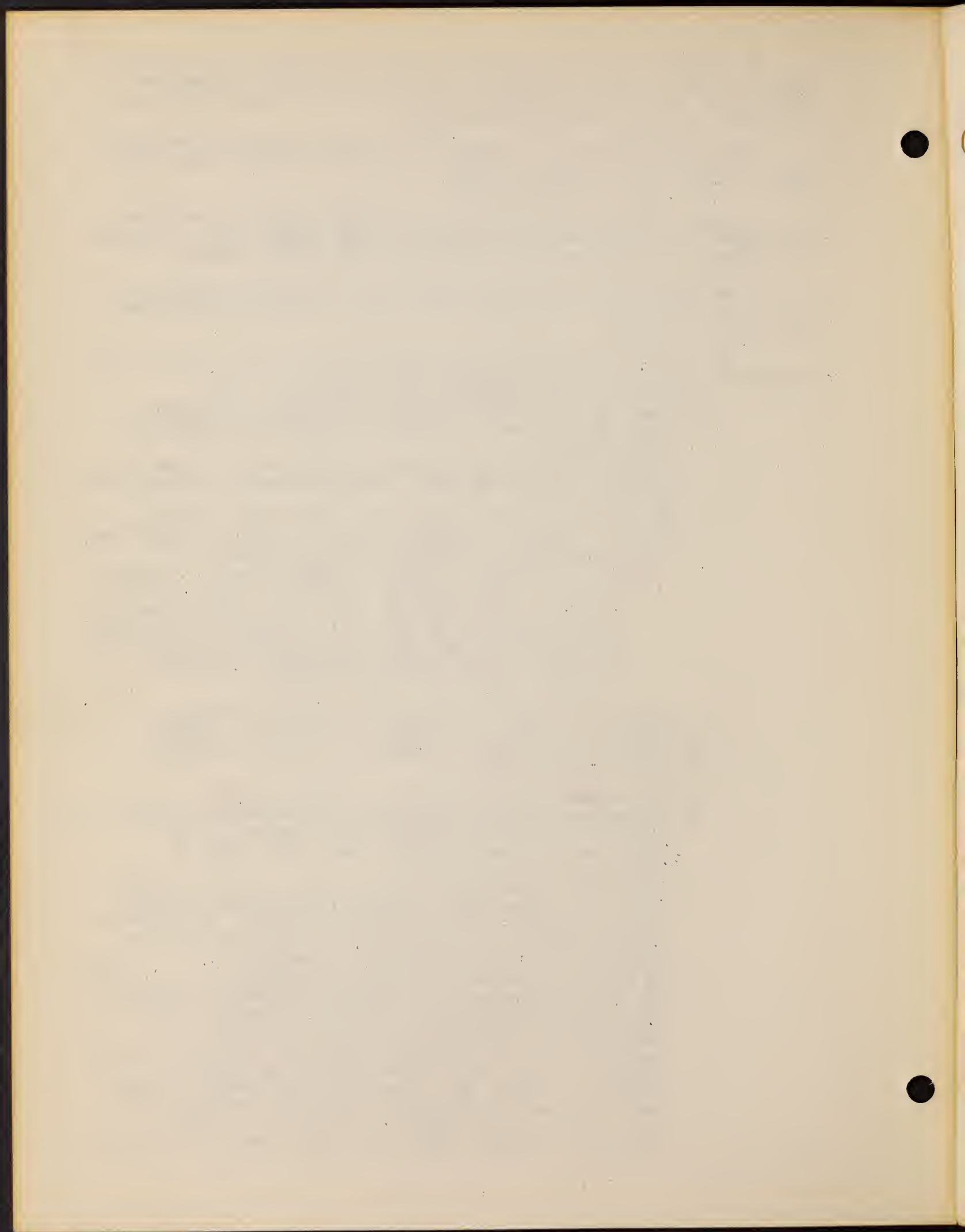
Father and mother are wonderful for their ages and both have good memories. Father will be 88 on the 14th of this month and mother was 86 last September 30th.

I think father would have been a happier person these last few years if he had some hobbies as everyone should have a variety of interests at any age and especially when growing older.

I do hope myself to take up more art work in the future so when I grow older and have some spare time, I will keep busy and not become unhappy.

I will list the answers to your questions from A to Z as the order you had them in your letter. As follows:

- A. Grandpa Ridley Purdy died on July 21, 1936.
- B. Fred buried in North Trenton cemetery and passed away at his home on Wooller Rod North of Trenton at age about 52.
- C. Donald passed away on July 31, 1934 at his home in Trenton--buried in North Trenton cemetery at age about 52 years.
- D. Ruliff Purdy was a brother of John Purdy who was Ridley's father. Ridley Purdy's father was John Purdy whose brothers and sisters were as follows:
 - 53 1. Dr. Gilbert Purdy 2. Micajah Purdy 3. Jacob Purdy 4. Ruloff Purdy 5. Joseph Purdy 6. Samuel Purdy 7. John Purdy 8. Mrs. Jones--who lived near (this may be Ruliff's daughter) Smithfield. 10. Mrs. Dorland--who lived (this may be Ruliff's daughter) near Wooller in Murray 11. Maybe another girl Mary. (Mrs. Abbott)?
- E. Ridley's brothers and sisters were as follows:
 1. David 2. Charles 3. Ralph (who lived in States)
 4. Ridley himself and 5. Samuel 6. Lewis 7. Haturia
 8. Emma 9. Ester 54
- F. Eliza Jane Purdy married Dr. Henry Day. 55
- G. My father knew this auctioneer Purdy about 70 years ago. When he himself was only about 17 years of age. Auctioneer's name was Tom. And about same as Ridly and a first cousin.
- H. Ridley's brother Ralph went to live up near Duluth at place called West Superior (Wisconsin) and had three children, Nellie, Bert and Effie. My father's grandmother was a Miss Fretz and her brother Allan Fretz lived in West Superior (Wisconsin).
- I. My mother's father was Charles Hagerman and his father was Herkison Hagerman and lived in Rawdon, Township of Hastings County. My mother's father Charles Hagerman had 7 (including himself) brothers and sisters. Are as follows: Paul, Case, Herney, Albert, Villard (Alvin went to the States) and Charles himself. Sister Emma died young and Hattie married Paul Kingston of Sidney. My mother's maiden name before she married Charles Hagerman was (Mary Corrigal) and her father came from Scotland at age 17.



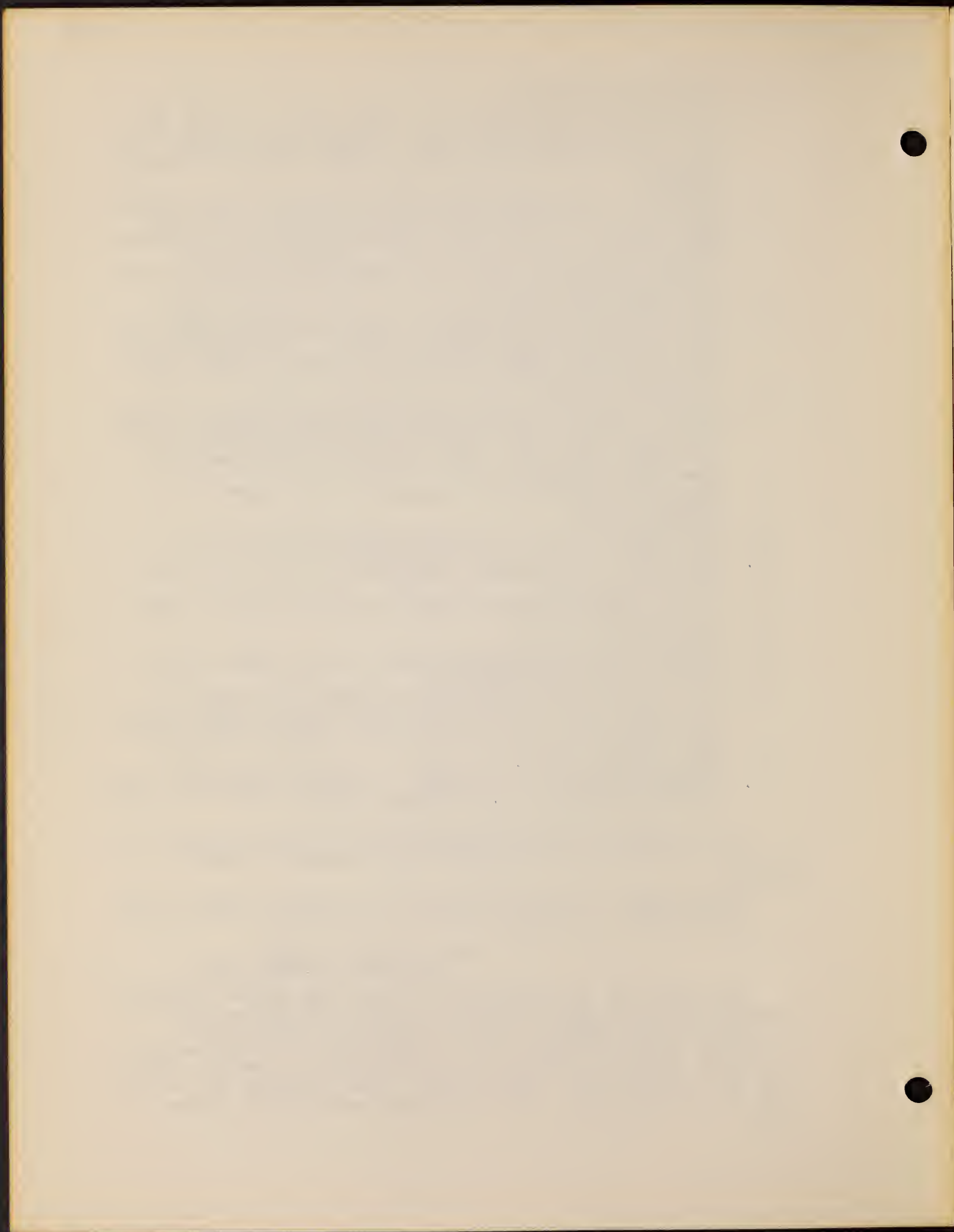
- J. Answered previously.
- K. Father knew definitely that Freeman did not marry in our Purdy family---children of John Purdy. Father said your mother---Emma Purdy had a younger sister Ester who never married. And the 3rd girl Maturia married James Vrooman.
- L. The place in Sidney where myself and sister and brothers grew up was less than half a mile east from the old Purdy place. It is a very large brick house just below the school house hill. And was a pretty spot but suppose the house looks much older now depending on who is taking care of it.
- M. John Purdy's family lived on the 4th line of Sidney north of Belleville and a man named Shibley bought the farm from John Purdy before he moved to Smithfield and they attended Wesleyan Methodist Church---Kreig Street church in Trenton.
- N. John Purdy's family attended Methodist Church in Smithfield. Ridley's family drove to Trenton Church - Krieg Wesleyan Methodist. They drove from Gordon's Mills but later went to the local Church in Johnstown Neighborhood Methodist.
- O. Jane Anne Farley is the daughter of Miss Purdy that married Jones.
- P. No comment.
- Q. Must have been two Purdys married Greenleaf girls?
- R. David Purdy married Ada Greenleaf and lived in Mason City, Iowa.
- S. Abbotts are relation so maybe the 11th child was Mary who married Abbott?
- T. No comment.
- U. Ridley's father married a Fretz but his father before him married Abigail Ostrom.
- V. About the little prayer book you have with writing - "To Miss Emma Purdy from her affectionate sister Mary". This must be an earlier generation because Emma did not have a sister Mary.
- W. Don's mother's people (Ridley's 2nd wife) was Jacob Purdy's daughter. 1. Jennie 2. Amelia married Mr. Rose and their daughter Elva married Hobbs.

Well my dear cousins I believe this is all I can write for this time and am sure you will be tired reading my awful writing.

Thanks again for the pictures and clipping. Much of this is father Will's dictation.

Love and best wishes
Winnfred T. Purdy Ellis

The order of the graves of my father and mother and all of the family but me and located in the Smithfield Cemetery are: 1. Annie Ireland Purdy; 2. Lillie Purdy; 3. Jennie Purdy; 4. Ridley Purdy (father); and 5. Harry Purdy. The graves lie from west to east in a row with the heads to the west. Only one has a head stone, that of Annie. The headstone is at the west end of the grave and at the south west corner of the plot.



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Letter from Maud Vrooman, daughter of Will Vrooman and Sarah Ogilvie. Will is the son of Maturia Purdy, my mother's sister. J.W.H.

Feb. 19, 1962
Box 39 *Neba gamon*
Lake Nebaquaonon, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Masten, *56*

I am sorry I have been so long in answering your letter. It came at a time I was preparing for a trip East and South. I decided when I was settled I'd answer. Then came Christmas with its attended activities and again I put off writing. I had just arrived at my Eastern destination--New York state when word came that my sister-in-law in Superior was ill. I flew home and found her in a coma. She never came out of it and passed away Dec. 21st. Since then I've been trying to get things in order. Today I am alive and can (I think) get things on paper as you'd like me to do. I was most interested in your letter. As in so many cases when a child is growing up things told to me about my father's family and mothers too for that matter was listened to with interest at the time but was not retained too well, I'm afraid.

Grandma, I knew, of course, and the name Fretz rings a bell or sorts. I know as a child visiting grandma and the Oakes family (with whom grandma lived when I knew her). I met several Purdys. There were so many I never could keep them straight but can remember going to different homes and always served fresh bread--pie or sauces of some kind. I don't believe I was named after anyone in particular but there seemed to be any number of Maud Purdys around--some original and some married into the family of Purdy.

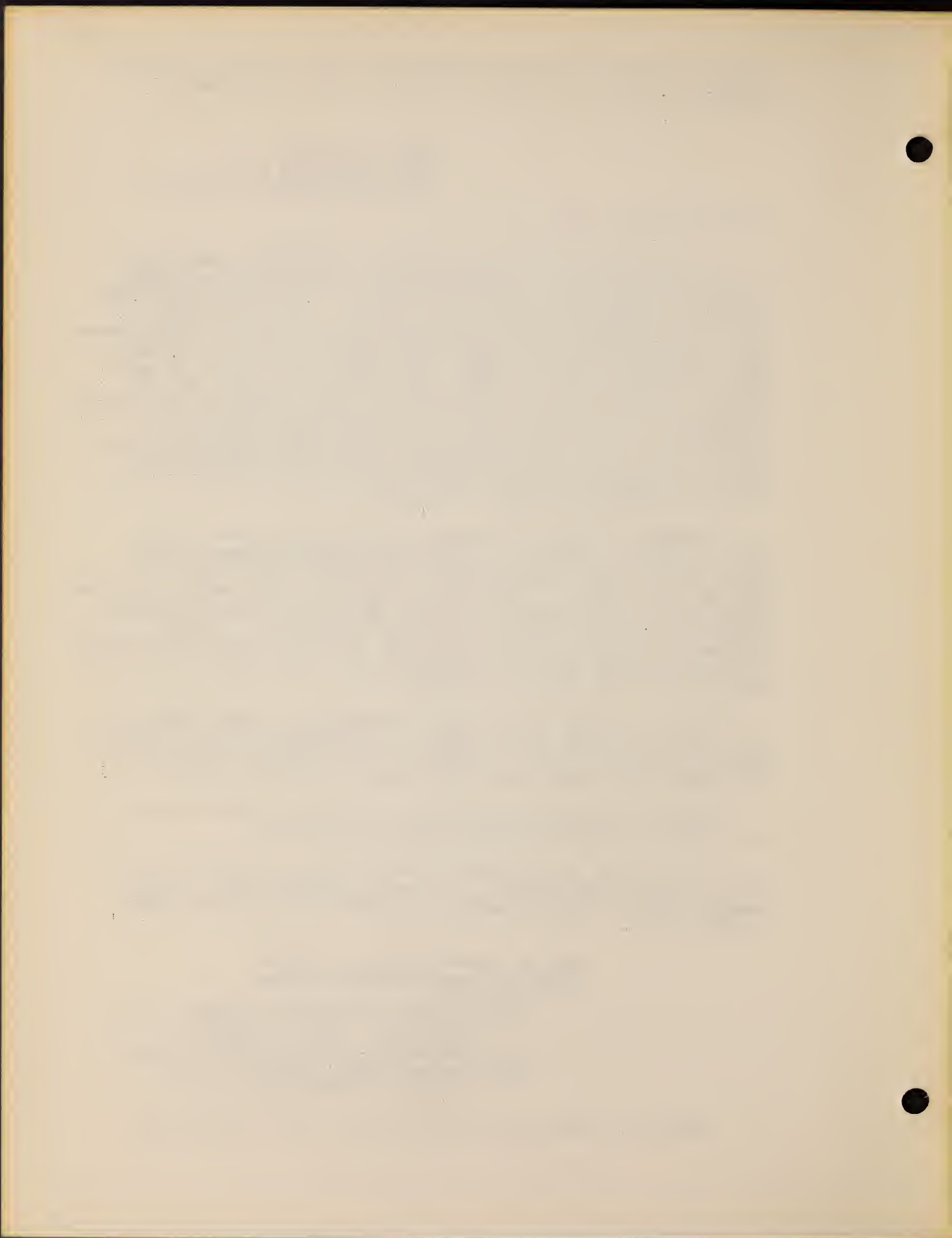
The only Purdy that I knew in Canada was Maud Purdy who was born and raised in Brighton. I think her father's name was Lew or Lou and I always thought he was a brother of Maturia. My grandmother--Ione Oakes could tell you that I know.

There is a branch of Purdys you didn't mention which I do know well and they always lived in Superior.

This family is the Ralph Purdy family I believe he was also a brother of grandmas. If not a brother then a first cousin but I always believed the children were my father's first cousins.

Sara M. Palmer Purdy -- mother
Ralph Wellington Purdy--father
3 children
Helen Florence (Nellie) Scribner - 92
years old Feb. 11, 1962
Effie Gertrude - 87 years old (living)
Homer Burton (Burt) would be 82 if
living--died many years ago.

Nellie is living in Lakeside Home, 4002 London Road,



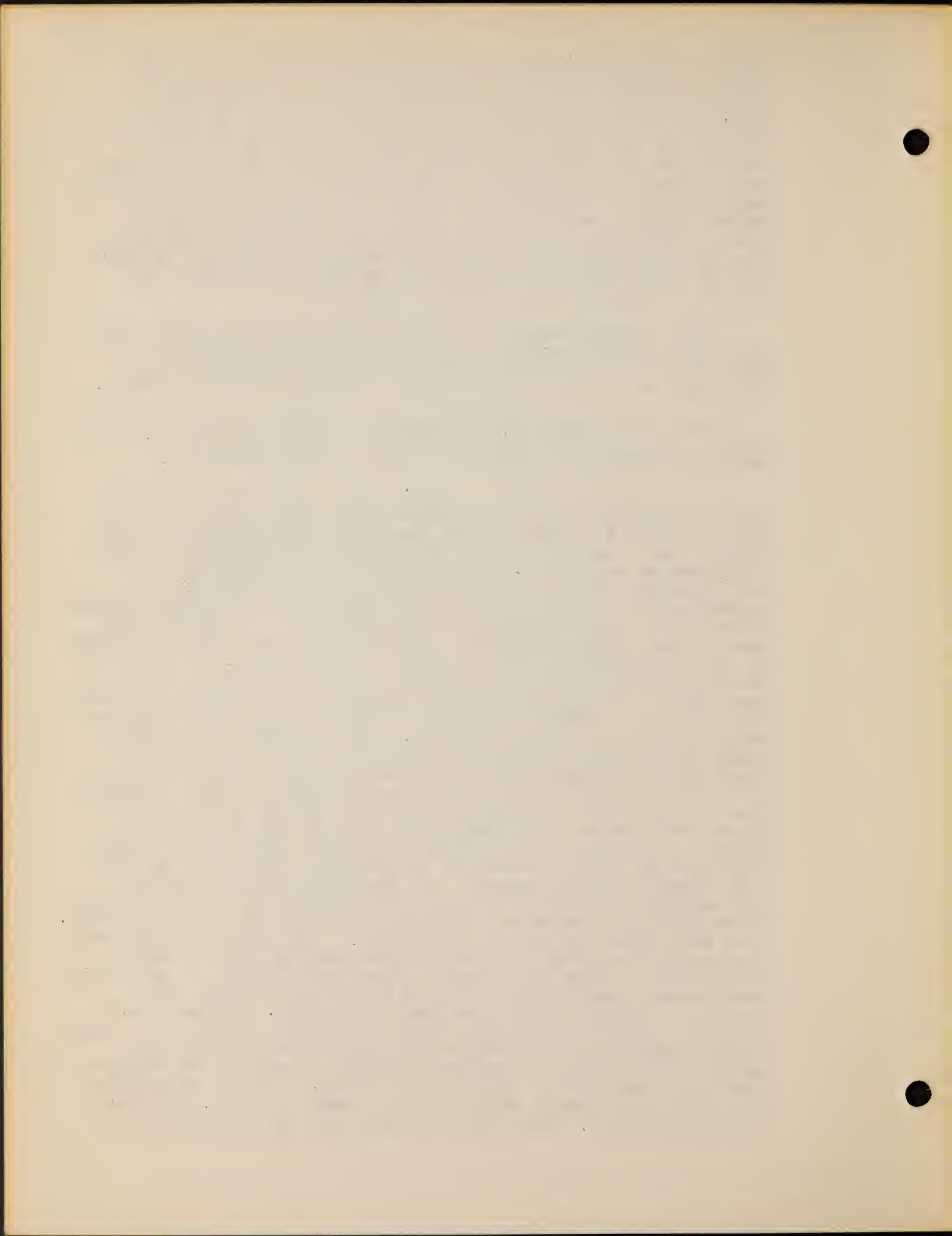
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Duluth, Minnesota. She is a delightful person to know and she is the one our family has kept in touch with. She and my mother were very close. Nellie's mind is still keen--in fact she is the one who gave me the above data. Though she can't tell whether grandma was an Aunt or cousin of hers. Her trouble now is losing her sight which is too bad. Nellie was married to a Ralph Thompson, they had one son Ralph. She was widowed when Ralph was a year or two old so worked all her married life. When Ralph, Jr. was on his own she married Frank Scribner and they had a very happy marriage until he died. Nellie has been in this home over 20 years. She felt she was alone--Ralph, Jr. was married so she provided for her old age early (70 years) Ralph Jr. has one son "Ralph" who lives in Chicago, has two adopted children.

Effie taught school for many years in Superior then after her mother (Aunt Sara as I called her) died she moved to California and is living in Santa Barbara, 118 Chapala St. She might be able to give you more information on her family.

Burt died leaving two daughters who are both nuns here in Duluth. This Purdy family were Church of England and Burt's wife was Catholic so brought the girls up in her faith.

Now as to my family. I don't know when my father first came to Superior but it was before 1889. He and mother were married in 1884 in Cambellford and my oldest brother was born there--also a second son was born there but died at 13 months. I believe my uncle, Dr. Robert Ogilvi was responsible for Dad's coming to Wisconsin. At the time Uncle had quit his profession as a Medical doctor and gone into the lumber business which at the time was booming in these parts. Papa was what they called a "Dry goods Man". He sold and knew well materials of all kinds--woolens, linen, silks, cottons, etc. He was with the Spicer Farming Co. for several years in charge of the yard goods. During this time my brothers Art and Reg were born. Next the family moved to Butte, Montana and papa was with the Scirion Co. I was born in Butte. After my birth the family lived in Hamilton, Montana for a time moving back to Butte about '98. In 1900 we all moved to Superior again and papa was with Roth Bros. until 1910 when he bought a farm. Nothing came of this as he knew nothing of farming but loved the outdoors and freedom. He died at 52 years of age of apoplexy. Mother, my brothers and I moved to Superior then Duluth until 1916 when we went to Detroit. I attended Normal College there and started teaching career. By this time Art was married and stayed in Superior, but John and Reg came to Detroit. When First World War broke out both boys joined up in the 16th Engrs. they were both construction engineers. When they returned Reg was married and John went to Florida where he died in 1925. Mother and I stayed in Detroit. She died in 1937. I sold our home, moved into an apartment and continued teaching and living in Detroit until I retired June, 1958. Art had been living in this little summer resort village (a delightful north woods community) and I liked this part of the country so several years before I retired I bought a home in the village and had it ready when I was ready for it. -- The tragedy was that Art only lived 6 months after I moved up here. He died of heart disease. His widow was mentally and physically not

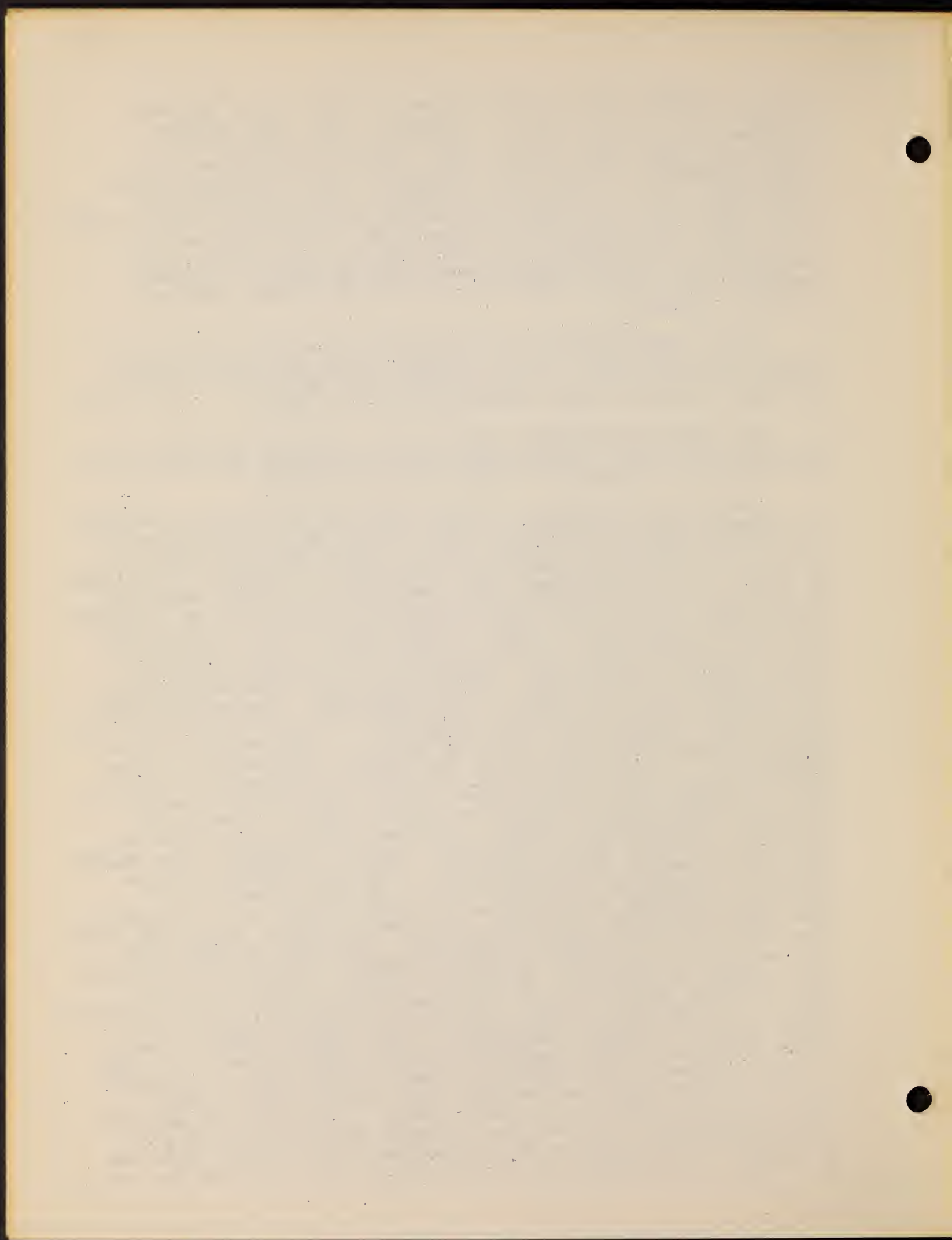


close. Nellie's mind is still keen--in fact she is the one who gave me the above data. Though she can't tell whether grandma was an Aunt or cousin of hers. Her trouble now is losing her sight which is too bad. Nellie was married to a Ralph Thompson, they had one son Ralph. She was widowed when Ralph was a year or two old so worked all her married life. When Ralph, Jr. was on his own she married Frank Scribner and they had a very happy marriage until he died. Nellie has been in this home over 20 years. She felt she was alone--Ralph, Jr. was married so she provided for her old age early (70 years) Ralph Jr. has one son "Ralph" who lives in Chicago, had two adopted children.

Effie taught school for many years in Superior then after her mother (Aunt Sara as I called her) died she moved to California and is living in Santa Barbara, 118 Chapala St. She might be able to give you more information on her family.

Burt died leaving two daughters who are both nuns here in Duluth. This Purdy family were Church of England and Burt's wife was Catholic so brought the girls up in her faith.

Now as to my family. I don't know when my father first came to Superior but it was before 1889. He and mother were married in 1884 in Cowbellford and my oldest brother was born there -- also a second son was born there but died at 13 months. I believe my uncle, Dr. Robert Ogilvi was responsible for Dad's coming to Wisconsin. At the time Uncle had quit his profession as a medical doctor and gone into the lumber business which at the time was booming in these parts. Papa was what they called a "Dry Goods Man". He sold and knew well materials of all kinds--woolens--linen--silks--cottons, etc. He was with the Spicer Farming Co. for several years in charge of the yard goods. During this time my brothers Art and Reg were born. Next the family moved to Butte Montana and papa was with the Scirion Co. I was born in Butte. After my birth the family lived in Hamilton, Montana for a time moving back to Butte about '98. In 1900 we all moved to Superior again and papa was with Roth Bros. until 1910 when he bought a farm. Nothing came of this as he knew nothing of farming but loved the outdoors and freedom. He died at 52 years of age of apoplexy. Mother, my brothers and I moved to Superior then Duluth until 1916 when we went to Detroit. I attended Normal College there and started my teaching career. By this time Art was married and stayed in Superior, but John and Reg came to Detroit. When First World War broke out both boys joined up in the 16th Engrs. they were both construction engineers. When they returned Reg was married and John went to Florida where he died in 1925. Mother and I stayed in Detroit. She died in 1937. I sold our home, moved into an apartment and continued teaching and living in Detroit until I retired June, 1958. Art had been living in this little summer resort village (a delightful north woods community) and I liked this part of the country so several years before I retired I bought a home in the village and had it ready when I was ready for it. The tragedy was that Art only lived 6 months after I moved up here. He died of heart disease. His widow was mentally and physically not too well so I took on the responsibility of looking after her more or less though she lived in her house and I in mine. She passed away in February in fact, she was the one



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too well so I took on the responsibility of looking after her more or less though she lived in her house and I in mine. She passed away in February in fact, she was the one who was ill, I returned to look after. My brother Reg lives in West Palm Beach, Florida, 328 Plymouth Road.

He and his wife came up each summer and I go to Florida the odd winter. I am a snow bird and like the winter weather so don't feel the need to get to warmer climates as some people do. Reg has 2 sons both of whom live in West Palm Beach. One has a family the other isn't married.

I'm looking over your letter, I note you mention Will and Lillian as the children of Maturia and James H. There were either one or two children--boys who died when young. I remember hearing of one Herry, 4 years old was drowned in a mill pond and I believe a second one drowned also. I expect that Emma Oakes Oakley--Ione's sister was named for your mother. It has just occurred to me that if Ralph Wellington Purdy was grandma's brother--he'd be your mother's brother also. Perhaps he was a cousin and not a brother.

I hope I haven't been too vociferous but you asked for information and I didn't know what to put in or leave out. You can use what you wish and scrap the rest.

I should very much like to meet and know you sometime and if I get to California, I'll surely look you up. Through my growing up years I was in much closer contact with my mother's family than with my dad's. I think because there were children my age in the Ogilivi contacts and also mother's sister Agnes Staubury lived in Superior. I spent many happy summer holidays with the Oakes family in Brighton. I loved Aunt Lillian (Ione's mother) and Ione and I have kept close contact through our grown up years. When I lived in Detroit I often went to Ione's for a weekend or she came and spent time with me.

I shall be happy to hear from you again any time you care to write. I promise to not be so long in answering next time.

Your new found "Cousin"

Maud Vrooman

P.S. I think you might be interested to know I taught physical education and health for 35 years and the last 6 years I was a counselor. I taught in high school--3--in all in the Detroit system--41 years of teaching was fun but enough.

Vrooman Tree

William James Vrooman - b. 1860-d-1912 married 1184
Sara Ann Ogilivi - b. 1860-d-1937 Cawbellford, Ont.

Children:

John Robert b-1885-d-1925-not married.
William George b-1886-d-1887- (13 months)
Arthur Fetchel b-1889-d-1958-married Mae Ross
b-1892-d-1962 Her father Wilbur, Mother Dora
Hall--no children



Reginold James b-1892- Married 1920 (Jan.) Louise Harriet Southwich, b-1897--Her father DeWitt Southwich d-1952? mother--Minnie Hackett--d-1918. Children--Ralph DeWitt--b-1920 (Dec.)--married 1951 Blanche McCall--b-1922 Children Nancy--b-1953, James--b-1954, Jack b-1957.

Maude Ogilvi V. -- b. 1896---never married.

Reg is known as R. James as he hates the name Reginald.



March 8, 1962

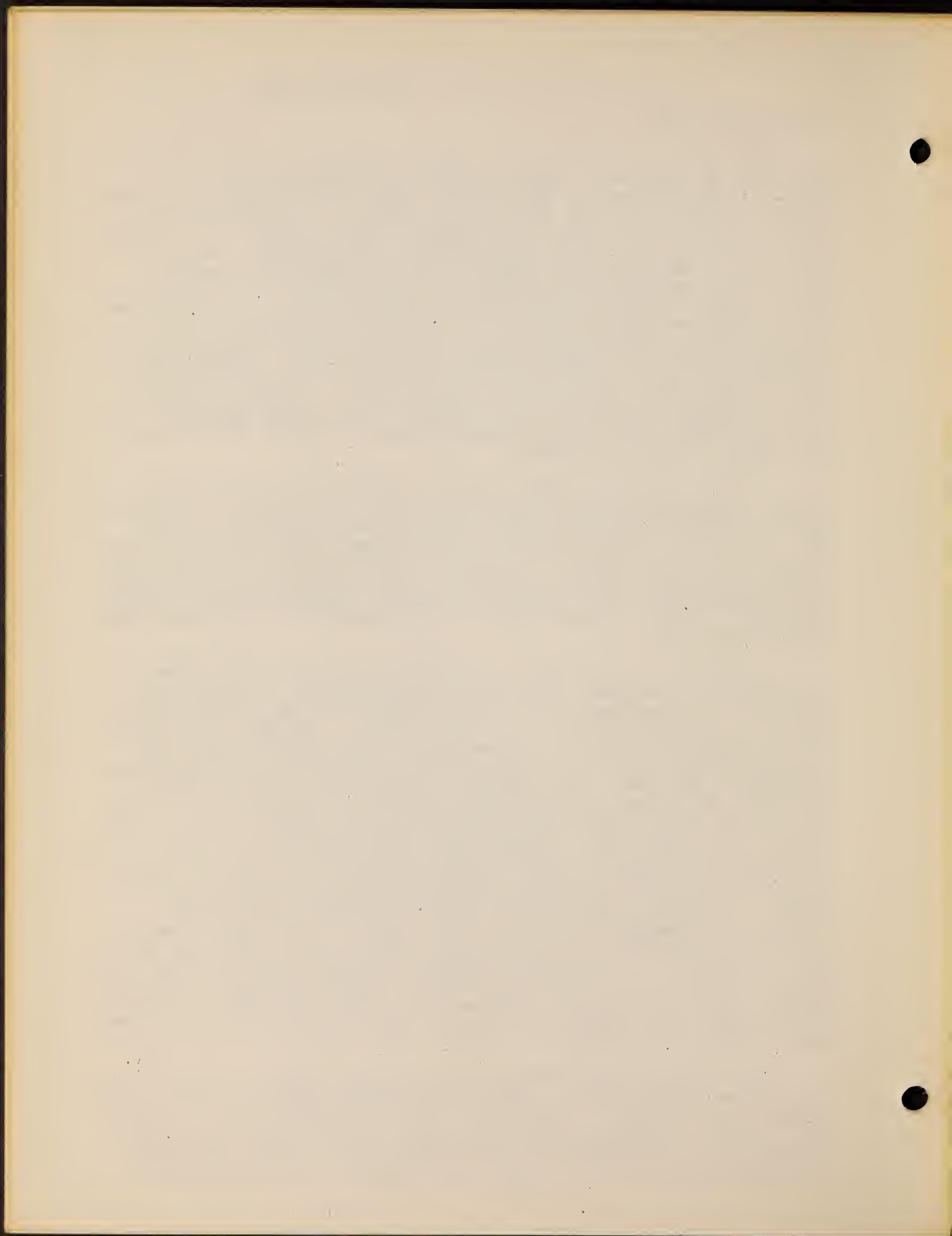
Dear Cousin John-

Your letter came last week and I do thank you for writing, also for the pictures. They are most interesting and odd to say a couple of them are ones I took when I was visiting the Oakes during a summer holiday. The one of grandma and either Ione or Emma as you said--is Emma Oakes Oakley, Ione's sister. The other one I took was the one of Aunt Minnie, Ione and Haud Purdy. I am happy to get the other pictures and the Christmas greetings and two pictures of your family and grandchildren. I do feel though that I should reimburse you as taking pictures off pictures is an expensive process--may I? I was most interested in your saying certain Purdys grew up around Brighton and Collins Bay. I spent some time the summer of 1921 at Collins Bay, camping with the Ogilvie family. (My mother's brother Geo.) At the entrance of the bay from Lake Ontario are 3 small islands. They are called "The 3 Brothers" and I remember mother saying these brothers were my grandmothers relatives. I expect she designated how related but again it didn't register.

I don't remember meeting any of grandma's brothers except Ridley, although in the years I spent time in Brighton I did meet a lot of Purdys. I remember going to Castleton and staying a few days with Will and Haud Purdy. The children were small and I was about 13 years old myself. Will had a grist mill and I think the reason this stays with me is that we had a cereal I liked so much for breakfast and Will said it was all the grains left over ground together. I wish we could buy it today--though it might not taste half as good now.

I went out to see Nellie Scribner (your cousin) the other afternoon and read and reread your letter to her. She had had a nasty fall that morning. I guess she fainted from what the nurse told me so wasn't as alert as at most times. However, she thought it so wonderful for you to write after I explained who you were. She was pleased to get the pictures and used her large magnifying glasses to see them. She couldn't answer many of your questions but asked me to write you for her and thank you for writing. She did say that her father with his family and I believe, she was one at the time, had lived in Mason City, Iowa so probably he was there with David Purdy. Nellie couldn't remember what he did unless he clerked in David's store. In Superior he had a grocery store. Again Nellie couldn't remember dates at birth or death of her father or mother. They may be on the headstone in Greenmont Cemetery in Superior where they are buried. When I got my car out of winter storage I'll drive out and see what I can find out for you. Perhaps, if you contact Effie she can give you data that will help. Nellie was 92 years old, Feb. 11, 1962 and on Feb. 12 two friends and I went out to the home and we had a birthday party. We hoped to take her out to car but she wasn't up to it so we settled for a party in her room.

The enclosed is a picture I took of her with her cake. I thought you might like it. She is a darling person and still has a great sense of humor. In her day she was as much fun to be with as a pack of monkeys. Effie was a more serious type but a lovely person also. I remember Aunt Sara very well and also Aunt Liza when she'd come up to the lakes for a visit. Any time Grandma



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Vrooman (Haturia) came it was always "up the lakes" as they travelled by steamer from Toronto. What a beautiful place you must have had! But a time does come when we can have too large a load and it is well to get out from under. This for this time and thank you again for writing. I do hope we can meet sometime.

Love

Maud Vrooman

P.S.

Hellie's address is Lakeside Home, 4002 London Road,
Duluth, Minn.

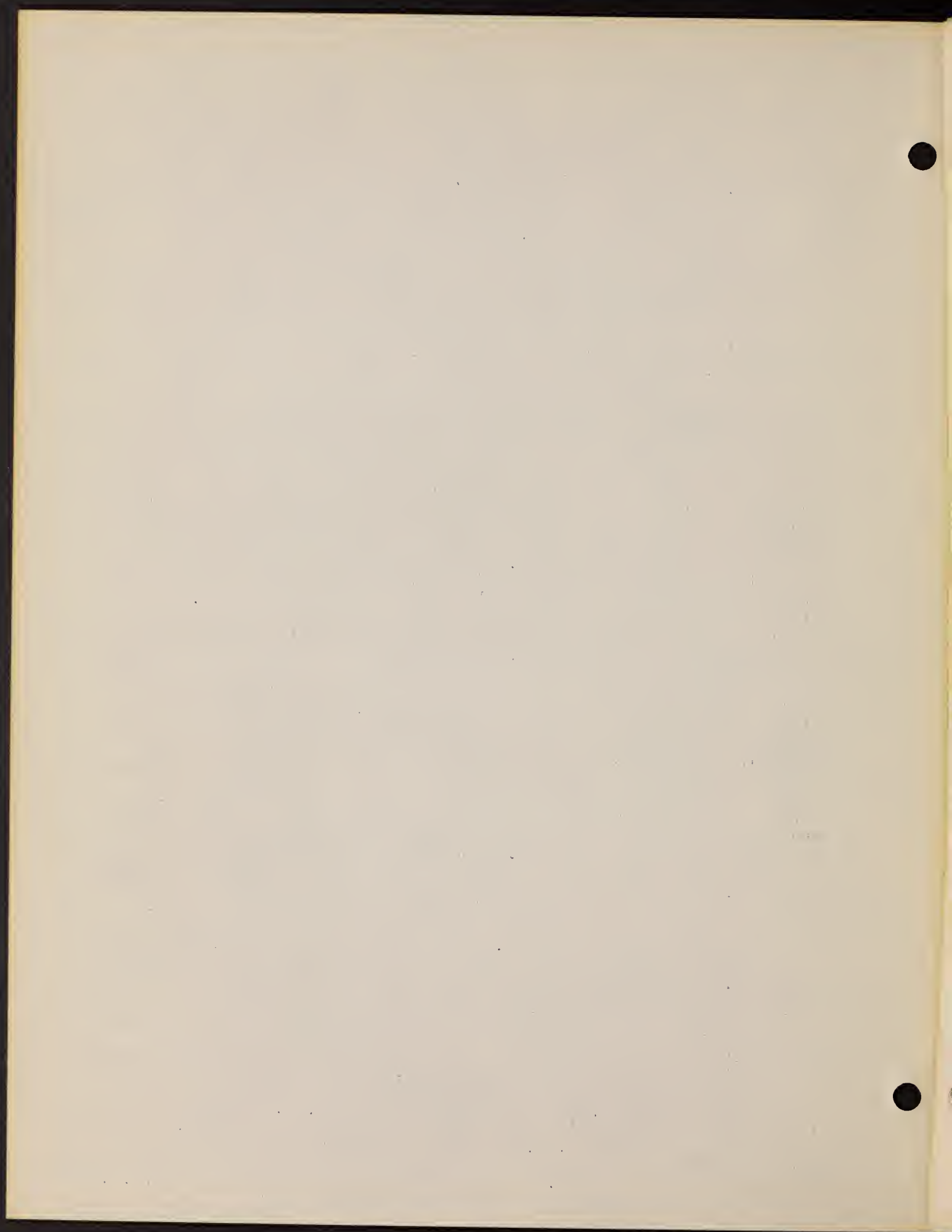
June 5, 1962

Dear Cousin John,

I have been most neglectful in my correspondence to you and to all my friends and relatives I might add. Since coming back to the lake I have been "up to my ears" in getting my brother's house emptied and ready for sale. At long last and with the help over a couple of weekends from friends Rice Lake (90 miles south of here) the job is finished. That is almost--I still have a few oddments (as they say in Victoria B.C.) for sale but they are stashed in the garage so that the house is free and clear. Now all we need is a buyer. We have had a cold wet May. June is starting out the same way so it isn't too conducive to getting people to my resort property.

I do thank you for all your most interesting letters and don't for a minute think that they bore me. Far in the other direction.

Please feel free to use my letters where they will be any help. My experience with the Purdy side of the family was mostly with Aunt Minnie Oakes family. I remember grandma very well, of course, as she visited us when I was a small child in Superior and then when I was 13 years old I spent 6 months with grandma and the Oakes family in Brighton. The only other Purdy outside of Nellie and Effie's family who I knew was Maud--Lou's daughter in Brighton. I loved going to see her, she was such a lively person and full of fun and quite uninhibited for girls in those days. Aunt Min drove grandma and me to Castleton one time to see Will, Maud Purdy and their children. They had 3 at that time. Grandma and I stayed over the weekend and then Will took us back to Brighton. I remember seeing Ridley and I believe his son Harry one time but don't recall that I ever met any others. I think the work you are doing is a colossal job and any help I can give you I am glad to do so. After my father died in 1912, mother and I spent some of each holiday with the Oakes but more time was spent with mother's family. Her sister, Mrs. J.O. Dowsley (Jennie) lived in Toronto and had 3 daughters--Marza-Beatrice (Daisy) and Maud and one son, Dr. George. Her sister, Mrs. H.E. Stravbrury (Agnes) lived in Superior as did her brother, Dr. Robert C. Ogilvie. Her brother George (Col. G. Hunter Ogilvie) was in the Canadian Army so moved around quite a bit though was stationed in Kingston more than anywhere else. He was at one time Commandant of R.N.C. in Kingston. "Aggie" had 3 children--Martha, Edward and Robert. Martha is married and living in Minnesota. Ed lives in Superior



and Bob died in 1923 or 4. George (Col. G.D.) had 5 children, one dying in infancy and John at age 24. Marion, Edgar and Mary grew up and were the ones I spent much time with. Summers we were at Collins Bay--Tenocanil--Oakville and from 1938 Victoria. Marion who was my chum died of cancer in 1954. Mary still is in Victoria, married and has 2 girls. Edgar is with the Canadian government in charge of Canadian exhibits in Trade and World Fairs. He at present is in Seattle with his wife and daughter.

Ione and I have kept in touch on the Vrooman side of the family and when I lived in Detroit I went to see her frequently and she came to Detroit. I hope to see her this fall if I go to Detroit and last as I plan to do. The picture of Ione's sister's son's family which you sent is Rita's son and his family. Emma Oakley had no children and is a widow of many years.

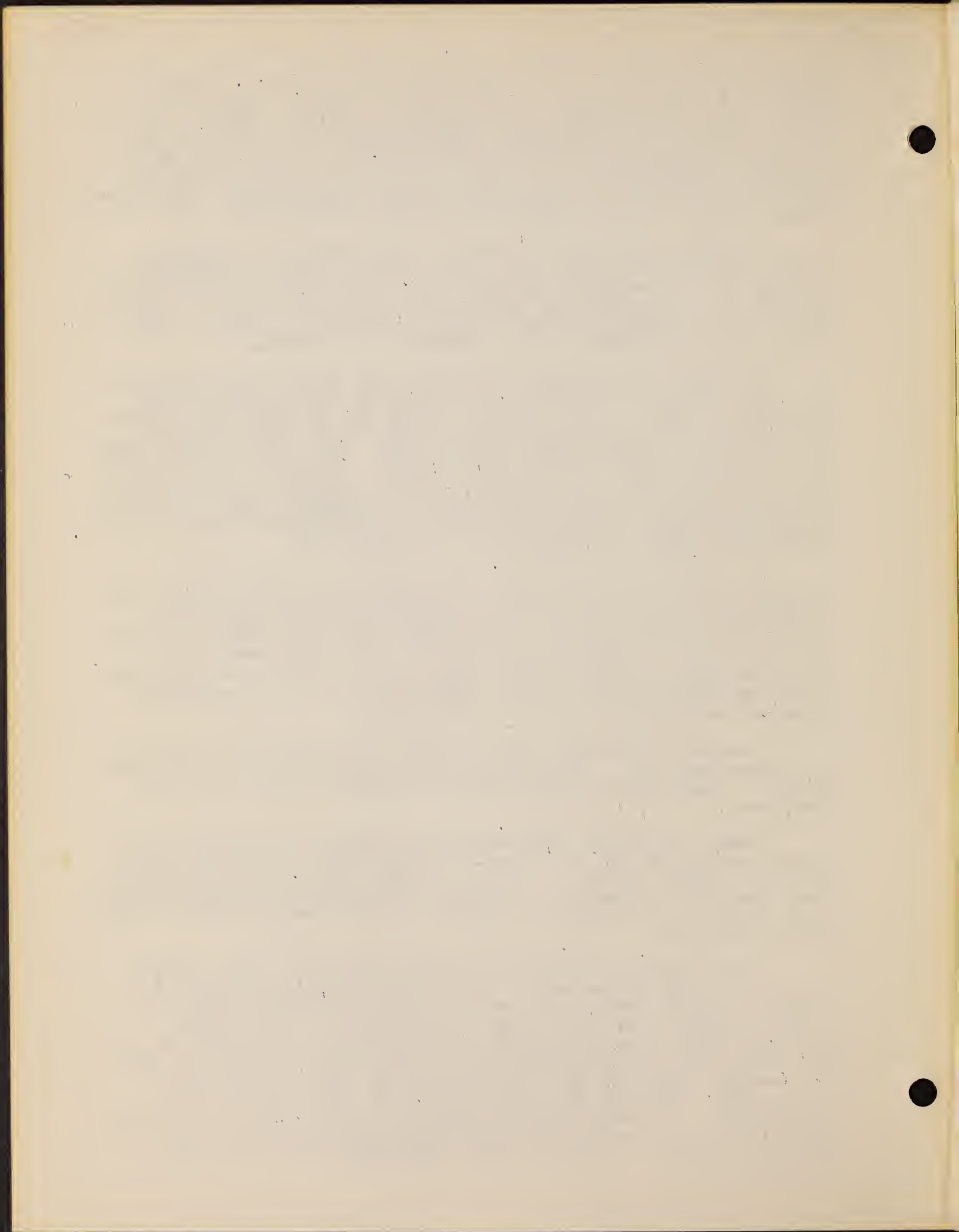
Your trip with "Hazel" (may I call her that?) sounds wonderful and I hope you can take in this part of the country. Lake Nebagamon is only 6 miles off U.S. Hiway #2 and the latch string is always out full length. Perhaps you'll come when my brother and family is here and that would be fun. They plan on being here in July and I should like us all to meet. I think I told you he is retired and living in Florida. He and Louise come each summer and this year his oldest son's wife and 3 children may come along. I hope they will for they haven't ever been this far north or in such wild natural country as we have around here.

The other night we went for a short drive and before we returned we had seen 10 deer. We seldom go out that we don't see one or two. The snow was so deep this winter and there was so much of it that the salt and sand crews were out much of the time. Now that salt is along the road edge and the deer come out to graze in the grass and get the salt. Several have been killed by cars and several cars have been badly damaged by the deer being startled and jumping into the passing car.

I haven't seen Nellie since I came to the lake but must get up before too long. Once I get here I seldom go into Superior or Duluth. There seems so much even in ordinary times to keep me occupied.

I have the Garden Club coming the 27th of this month and my garden as such is nil this year. I haven't even had time to go after my Petunia plants. I hope to tonight though, and at least have them in the ground. I'm afraid I'd make a poor farmer except with animals. The field and garden work I'd leave to someone more adept than I am.

I am returning duplicate pictures of ones you sent and am making an album of the rest. They are most interesting and I am so glad to have them. I am returning your mother's letter and thank you for sending it to me. I remember the name "Carrie Dorland" from hearing her spoken of many times. I wonder who the Mrs. Vrooman was that Grandma ("Tura") was giving the party for? It couldn't have been my mother as she and dad weren't married until 1884. It must have been grandpa V's mother or my great grandmother. It very well have been a Mrs. V. from N.Y. state who was visiting as your mother speaks of "the stars and stripes for Mrs. V." (quote). Anyway it must have been a nice party and



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reading about it all makes it seem so recent instead of 82 years ago. And what beautiful penmanship they had in those days. Going through the things at the V's I came across several family Bibles, old letters and documents of various kinds all written in this type script. The earliest was 1763 a land grant to one of Hae's Aubster in Iowa. Her people all came from around Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Well I think I shall give you a rest and get myself busy. I decided this was the first thing I'd do today -now I'll catch up on house work. I do hope you folks will come this way and I'll be most interested in hearing of your trip and getting more letters.

Cordially yours,
Claude Vrooman

Letter from Mrs. Jay Lorenz
211 N. Adams Ave.
Mason City, Iowa

May, 1961
Mason City, Iowa

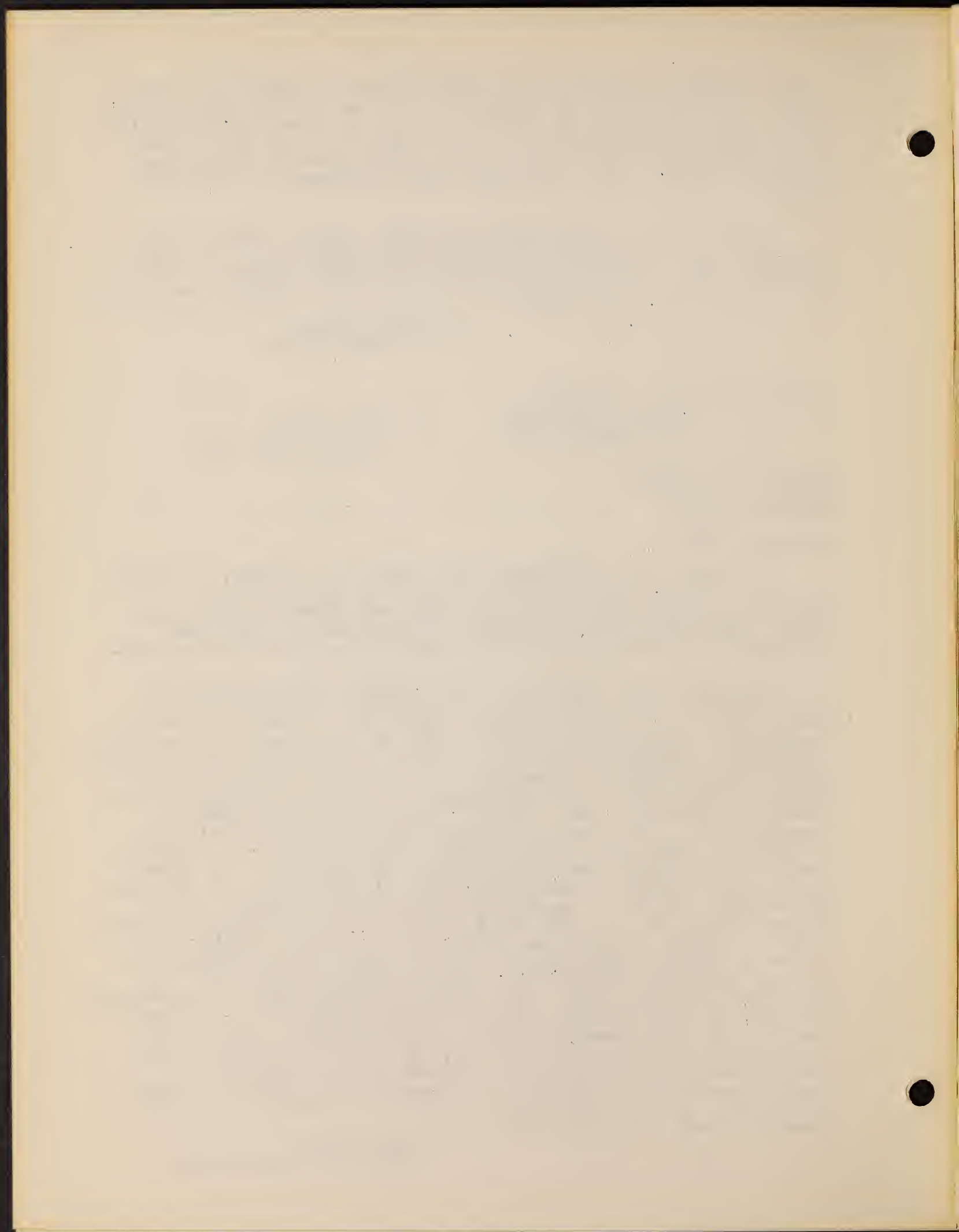
Mr. John W. Masten
425 W. San Jose
Fresno, Calif.

Dear Sir: 58

Recently I had a telephone call from Mr. Ed Clark, a friend and one of Mason City's older citizens who said he wanted information about the Purdy family who once lived in Mason City which information was requested by a stranger from the local Chamber of Commerce. Hence this letter in reply to your request.

Yes--David J. Purdy was my own father's first employer in Iowa (Spencer) when both were early settlers in this new area--having come from Ontario, Canada. David was a grocery merchant. He married Ada Greenleaf--whose mother was a sister of my paternal grandmother, Clarissa Marsh-Bate. D. J. Purdy died in 1899 and is buried here in Elmwood cemetery. Ada, his wife and my father's first cousin lived on for many years. But her 4 children all preceded her in death. Only today I looked at the headstones at cemetery which show the names Maggie, Carrie, and Dan--all of whom died in childhood, 1871, 1880, 1880 respectively. However, David's son George lived to adulthood, was a farmer. He passed away and was buried at Rockford, Iowa. I can't state the date of his death. But he, in turn had 3 sons and one daughter. The oldest was Harold who died about 2 years ago in San Antonio, Texas. Harold's widow, Lorna Bishop, returned to school teaching, some where in northern California. Marie, George's only daughter is now the widow of William Berry and she lives in Michigan. The two other children, boys, are Richard and Flint, one is a librarian the other a math teacher, also in northern California. I haven't seen any of these second cousins for many years. I shall send this letter to my sister, Mrs. J.R. Giddings, at Pasadena, and ask her to add any addresses or information she may be able. I have understood you wanted this information to complete a Purdy geneology. If this in any way serves your purpose, I am glad I have been able to furnish it.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Lois Bate Lorenz



Lorenz letter continued.

June 12, 1961

David J. Purdy was in grocery business in Spencer, Iowa and also in Mason City, Iowa in the early 70's when my father, the first cousin of his wife (Ida Green leaf) came from Canada to work for him later going into partnership and buying him out. I remember attending his funeral in 1899 when I was 12 years old.

The son George married Hattie Flint. Three of their four children are still living. All are college graduates.

Marie Purdy -- Mrs. Will Berry--lives 1534 Spruce Dr., Kalamazoo, Michigan. Her husband was a professor in university there. Their daughter Barbara, Mrs. Gene Webb lives in Washington, D.C.

E. Flint Purdy, 14860 Penrod, Detroit, Michigan is head librarian in Wayne Univ.

Dr. Richard Purdy, youngest son is 4091 Morris Rd., Fremont, California. Ph.D. in math at Stanford, was head of math dept. at San Jose State College for 13 years. Then asked to be dean of instruction at the new Alameda State College at Hayward, Calif.

These three could give you more complete information. The D.J. Purdy and our families were very close in Mason City, Iowa but Cousin David died early.

Very sincerely,
Clara Bate-Giddings (Mrs.J.R.)

95 S. Holliston Ave.
Pasadena, California

Postcard from Mrs. Jay Lorenz

George's son's widow

Mrs. Lorna Purdy, 37531 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, Calif.

Marie Purdy (Mrs. Will Berry) Kalamazoo, Michigan, now a widow, one daughter, Barbara.

Flint Purdy, Head librarian, Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Michigan, 2 adopted children.

Richard Purdy, lives across street from Lorna, his sister-in-law in Fremont. He is professor of math at a new college in that neighborhood, has two children--David and Nancy.

Letters from Effie Gertrude Purdy

May 5th, 1962

Dear Cousin John,

I am pleased to know you have located some of Uncle Charlies family. If at some time you can send me Maude's address, should you get it, I will try and write her. She will be surprised to hear from me after all these years.

I am enclosing Nellie's card sent to me that you may know why you have not heard from her. Also Ralph's business card with his home address on the back. I am sure he will be pleased if you call.

Well I think I shall give you a rest and get myself busy. I decided this was the first thing I'd do today, now I'll catch up on house work.

I do hope you folks will come this way and I'll be most interested in hearing of your trip and getting more letters.

Cordially yours,

Maud Vrooman

P.S. Do you wish me to return the "brief" you sent. It is a wonderful piece of work. I'll keep it until I hear from you.

Also I am returning grandma's obituary. No I had never seen it before and was glad of this opportunity. Thank you.

George E. Oakes - Mary Lillian Oakes (nee Vrooman) Family

(Compiled with the aid of Miss Ione Oakes) 59

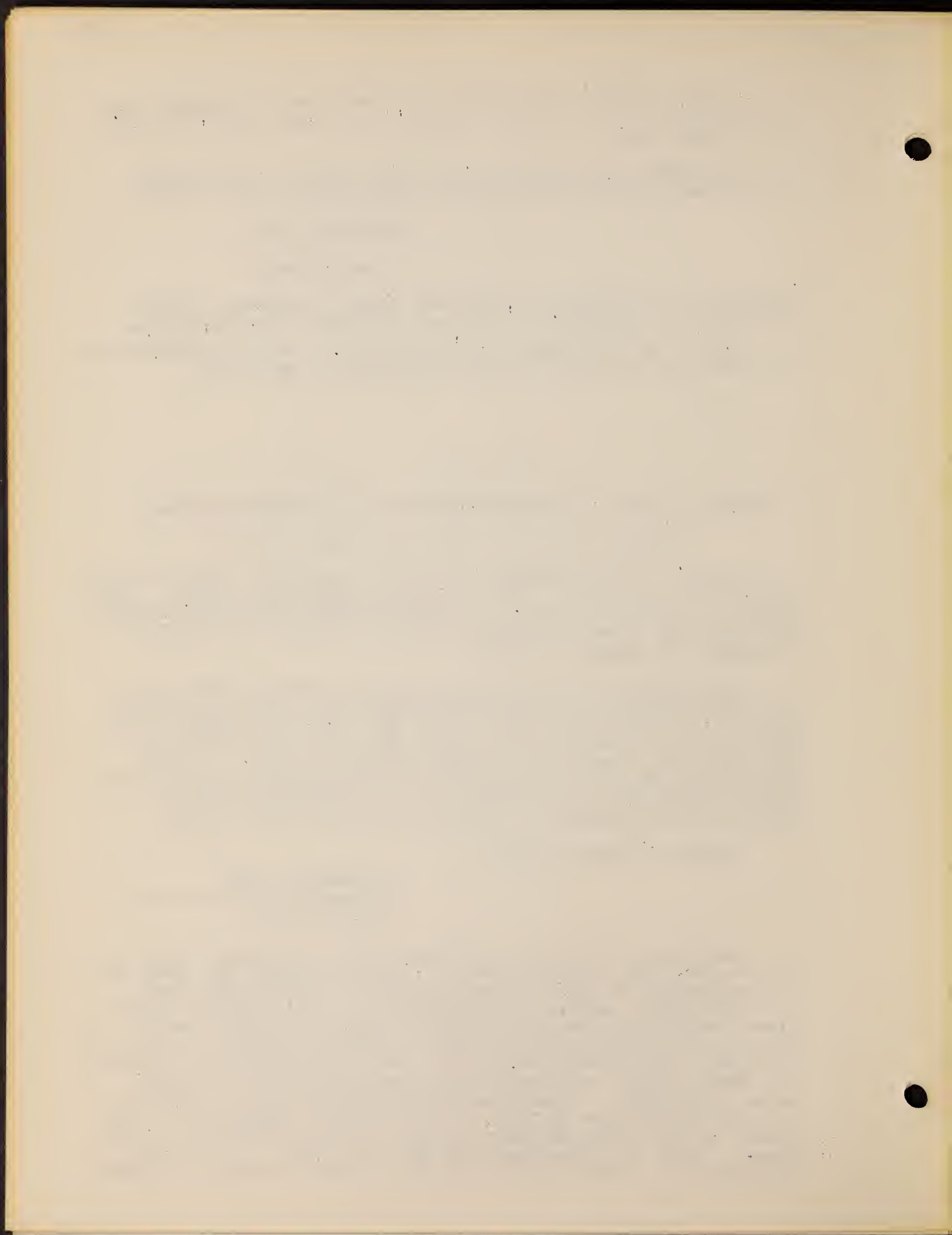
George E. Oakes married Mary Lillian Vrooman. Mary Lillian's mother was an Insurance and Real Estate Broker of Brighton. Mary Lillian's father was James H. Vrooman and the only other brother or sister who lived to maturity was Will Vrooman who moved to Wisconsin and raised a family.

The obituary of Mary Lillian Oakes is printed below, the following letters or excerpts from Miss Ione Oakes give greater insight into the family story, than the writer can otherwise do. Ione Oakes is a now retired teacher (May 20, 1962) living at 88 George St., Toronto 14, Ontario (Mimico) Canada. We have visited her and we have studied the old family pictures together. Her knowledge of the old family of her grandmother, Maturia Vrooman and the Purdys of that time has been very valuable.

Letter of Oct. 8, 1961

88 George Street
Toronto 14, (Mimico) Ont.
Oct. 8, 1961

Excerpts. "Yes I know of Helen Allyea. I usually go to call on her when I am in Trenton." (Helen's father Lou Purdy was a first cousin of Ione's mother, Minnie). "I knew that Uncle Lou of Brighton and his wife Aunt Louisa, Mary's children were first cousins, but could not make out how." "I always heard that the reason my uncle Will went to Wisconsin was on account of a brother who was very well to do, and of his wife Sarah Ogilvie, who lived there." "Grandma Maturia Purdy Vrooman died at our house in Brighton. Grandfather James Vrooman died in Trenton, and was buried there in 1894. He was called a Millwright. He worked at his trade and then owing to ill health kept a grocery store. First at Cambellford and then in Trenton. As to his selling out to Uncle Lew of Brighton, I would not know. Grandma



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Maturia spent her last days with us in Brighton. She lived to be 89 years old." "Great Grandmother, Mrs. John (Anna) Purdy (nec Frotz) lived with us for a time but she spent her last days with Uncle Ridley and died there. If there is a grave marked "mother" in the Lew A. Purdy plot, that is where she is." (The writers had previously written Will M. Purdy, Ridley's son, about the whereabouts of Grandma John Purdy's grave, and he told us that her son Lew Purdy of Brighton had taken the body after the funeral at his (Wills) father Riddleys and buried it at Mt. Hope Cemetary in Brighton).

Hoping to hear from you again as ever,
Cousin Ione Oakes

Letter of Jan. 22, 1962

88 George Street
Toronto 14, (Mimico) Ont.

Excerpts. "I am glad that my letter was of value to you. Yours was of great interest to me, as I did not know anything of Uncle Jacob's family and wondered so much about the Rose connections."

"Aunt Mary Louisa (Lew's wife of Brighton) lived with her daughter Maud and friend in the old home for some years after Lew's death in 1911. Later on the girls took an apartment in Toronto and opened up a millinary store. They came back to Brighton with Auntie Mary Louisa to sell off the furniture. For years Auntie had been very crippled up with inflamatory rheumatism, (which now would be arthritis, I suppose). Hearing the auctioneer and seeing her beautiful furnishings of a life time go, and realizing it was the end of all she cherished, it broke her heart and she died suddenly while in Brighton."

Note by JWM

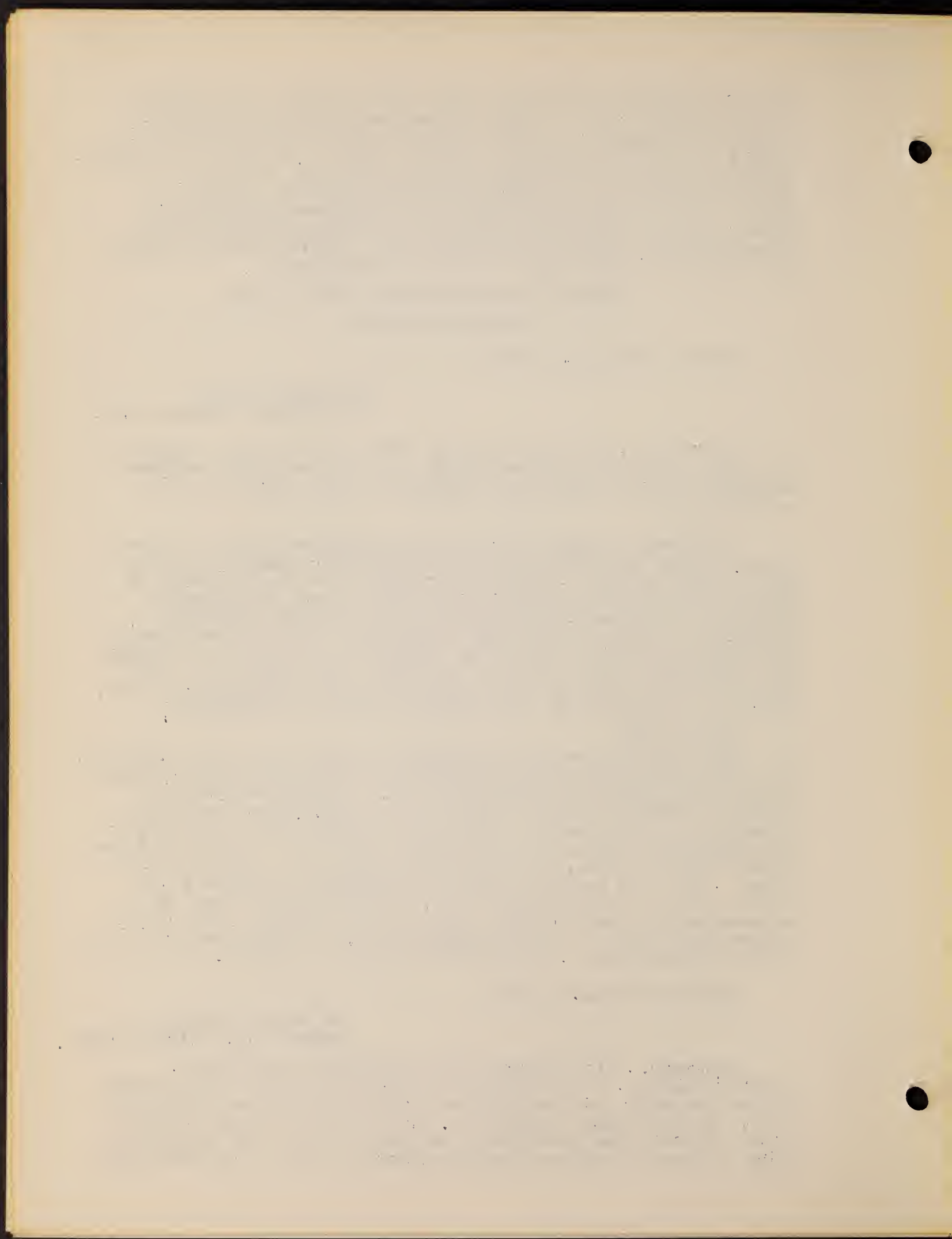
There was not much left of the old estate and the wealth of Lew Purdy. All his family but Maud and Harry were dead. Harry at one time became quite wealthy also. Neither ever raised a family, they too are gone now. The Lew A. Purdy family has passed out of this world. There are no remnants left except the imposing brick home on the hill, and in the cemetary a large Scotch granite stone, and a plot surrounded by a strong iron fence. Here the family of five lie together with mother and father and grandmother John Purdy. Lew A. was only one of grandmother's eight children who grew to maturity. The seven others had families of considerable size, and have carried on for several generations. Only Lew left none to carry on.

Letter of Feb. 25, 1962

88 George Street
Toronto 14, (Mimico) Ont.

Excerpts. "In answering your questions about Lew A. Purdy's family. I only know that Frank went up to the Klondike and became very sick, so Maud went up to get him and bring him back. He died soon afterwards. He had already been crippled with arthritis for some time. As far as I know the boys had just a normal education along mercantile lines. I do know that

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Maud wished to become a nurse but Lew A. wouldn't hear of it. I guess he thought his money would last forever, and so she was not trained for anything."

"Yes we all loved Uncle Ridley and we kids looked forward to a good play time when he came up." "No I never knew anything of my great grandfather."

"I had a letter from Maud Vrooman. She is in Duluth with a friend - address is: Miss M. O. Vrooman c/o Mrs. T. Keys 1532-21st, Duluth, Minn.

As ever
Miss Ione Oakes

Letter of Mar. 25, 1962

88 George Street
Toronto 14, (Mimico) Ont.

Excerpts. "About names "Maybee and Latimer. Mrs. Maybee was a cousin of Aunt Mary Louisa of Brighton, and Mrs. Latimer as I remembered, (I was not very old when she died) was an Aunt of Mrs. Maybee. Mrs. Maybee had 2 boys and 2 girls but there is only one girl Margaret, living now. I do not know if she lives in Brighton now or not. She lived with her sister-in-law who died last winter. I do not know of any descendants of the Latimer's."

88 George St.
Mimico, Ontario
Nov. 12, 1961

Dear Cousins,

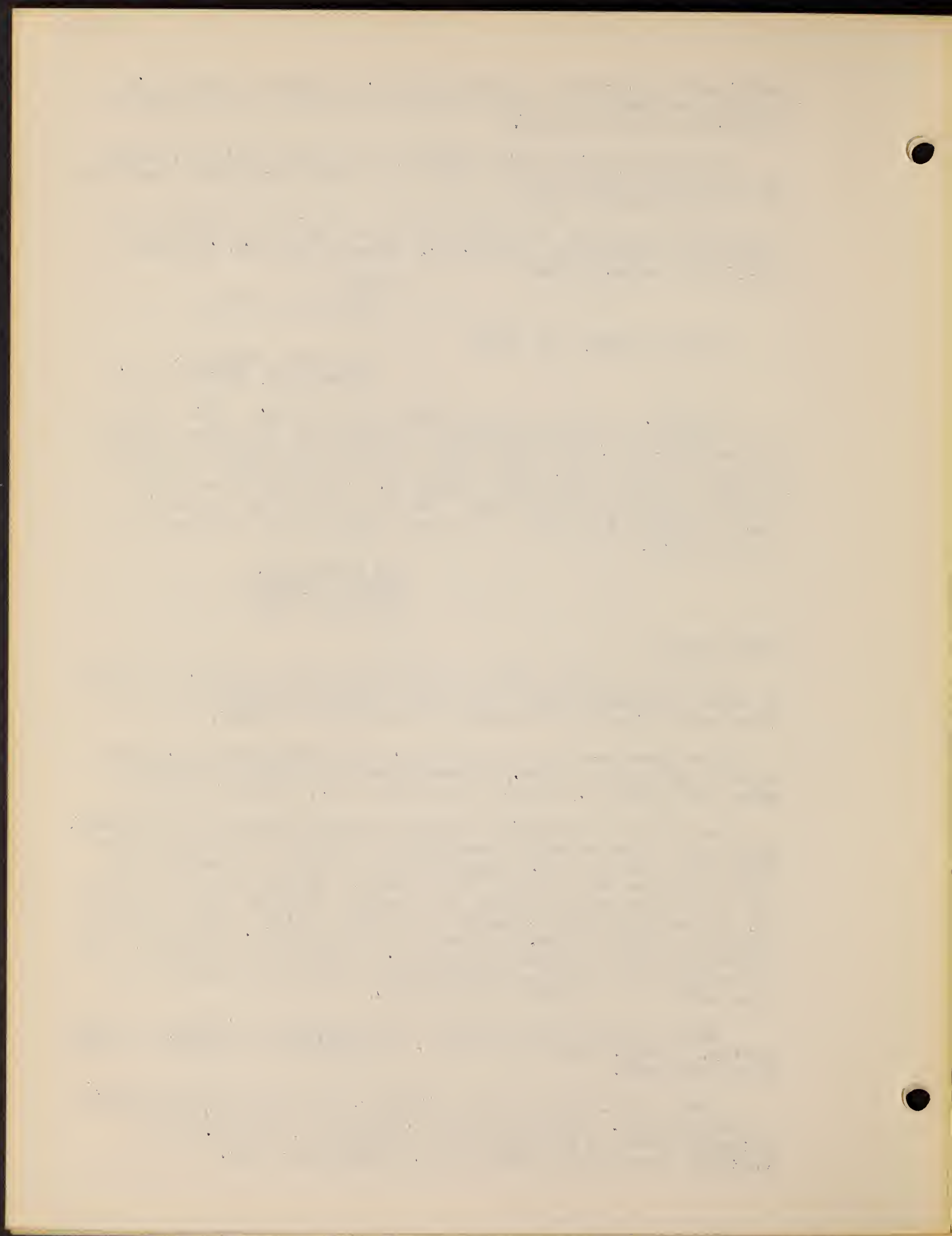
I guess you will think I have fallen down on the job. Well to tell the truth I had a bad fall about four weeks ago and am just now feeling up to taking an interest in things.

Have just re-read your letters. My family are Mrs. Emma Oakley, Holley N.Y. Mrs. Richard Shortill (Rita) Ballinofad Ont., and George H. Oakes, 135 Joicey Ave., Toronto, Ontario.

We all got our public and high school education in Brighton. Rita and I went to Peterborough Normal School and obtained our teacher's certificates. Emma went to the General Hospital in New York where she trained for a nurse. George came to Toronto and went to Pharmacy college and now has his drug store on Avenue Rd. He married Manie Bennett of Toronto. Rita married Richard Shortill of Ballinofad, and they are still there. She had three children. Harry a plumber in Acton. Lillian, not married, and at present is an officer of Guarantee Trust, and Richard on a farm next to his father in Ballinofad.

Harry married Viola Bennett and they have 5 children, Donna, Morley, Barney, Arlene and Penny. Richard has 3 children, Danny, Karen and Mark.

Now, what I know of Will Vrooman. He married Sarah Ogilvie of Cambellford. John (deceased), Arthur (deceased), Maud (single) lives at Lake Nebaganon, Wisconsin, Box 39, and Reginald Vrooman who lives in St. Petersburg, Fla.



If you wrote Maud, you would probably get more information. There has been a history of the Vrooman family compiled by a Mrs. James Wickershan, Juneau, Alaska. She was a Grace Vrooman. This is an old address so she may not be there now.

Well, I will have to write more another time. Hoping you both are keeping well. Your visitors and places visited sounded interesting.

With love

Ione Oakes

Obituary - The Brighton Ensign 61

Mrs. G. E. Oakes Friday January 10th, 1936

On Monday, December 30th there passed on to the better world the beloved wife of G. E. Oakes. She was known in early life as Mary Lillian Vrooman, daughter of James H. Vrooman and Maturia Purdy. Her birth place was Ferry Point, Prince Edward Country, on April 10th, 1869. For some time her parents lived in Campbellford where as a young girl she grew up and developed considerable musical talent. At the age of 11 years she became organist of the M. E. Church in that place.

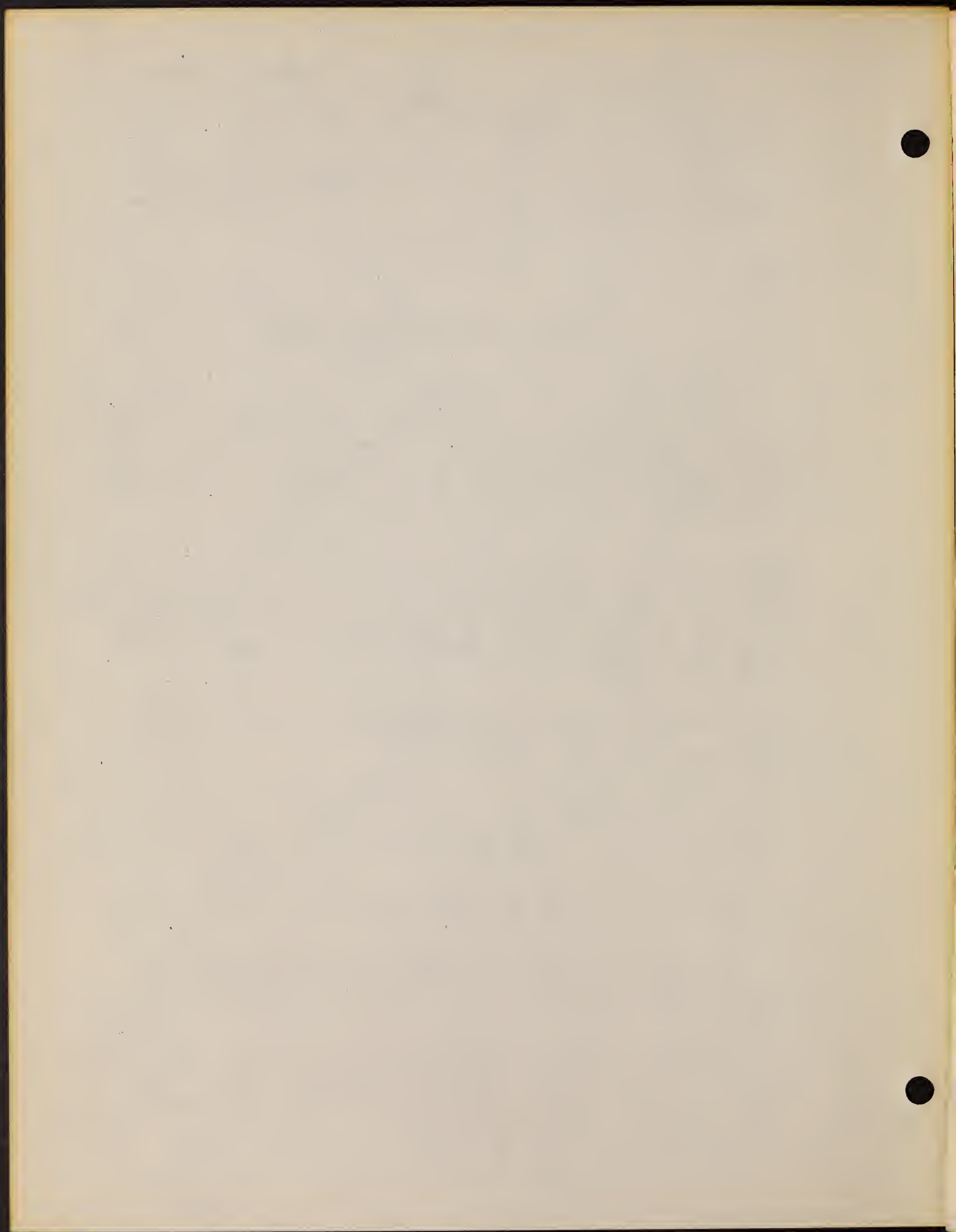
On May 13th, 1889, G. E. Oakes and Mary Lillian Vrooman were married and resided in Trenton for a few years. In that town Mrs. Oakes performed duties of an organist in King St. Church and later in Grace Church. About 40 years ago they moved to Brighton and resided on Ontario Street until the time of her death. For a few years Mrs. Oakes was organist for the M. E. Church here.

During the long years of residence here, her Christian spirit and kindly helpful disposition won for her a host of friends. She was always ready and willing to sacrifice herself for others.

All who knew her loved her dearly. About a year ago an illness developed which she fought courageously to the last. She faced the inevitable, however, with faith and Christian fortitude, and her memory lingered on in the hearts and minds of all who really knew her. She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband and four children: Miss Ione Oakes, teacher at Minico; Mrs. H. Oakley of Holly, USA; Mrs. Richard Shorthill, of Georgetown, and G.E. Oakes, druggist of Toronto.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. C. W. Barrett and interment was made in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Brighton. The sympathy of the entire community is extended to the bereaved family.

Note by writer: Having read this obituary and likewise that of the mother of Mary Lillian, who was my mother's sister Maturia Vrooman, it is a pleasure to know that of such Purdy stock we can well be proud. They gave to us a rich heritage of Christian faith and devotion.



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Bowmanville,
Jan 26th, 1962

My Dear Cousins, 62

You will be thinking I have passed off the stage of action or something of that nature, after my long silence. But to be perfectly frank, I am hale and hearty, but have been "gadding" about. As soon as cold weather sets in I get the urge to "hit off". In other words I get restless.

I realize that in letter writing, most important matters should be mentioned first, so here goes. Really, I can't begin to express my appreciation for all the trouble you have been to in sending me all those pictures, and so many of them. "Thanks a million".

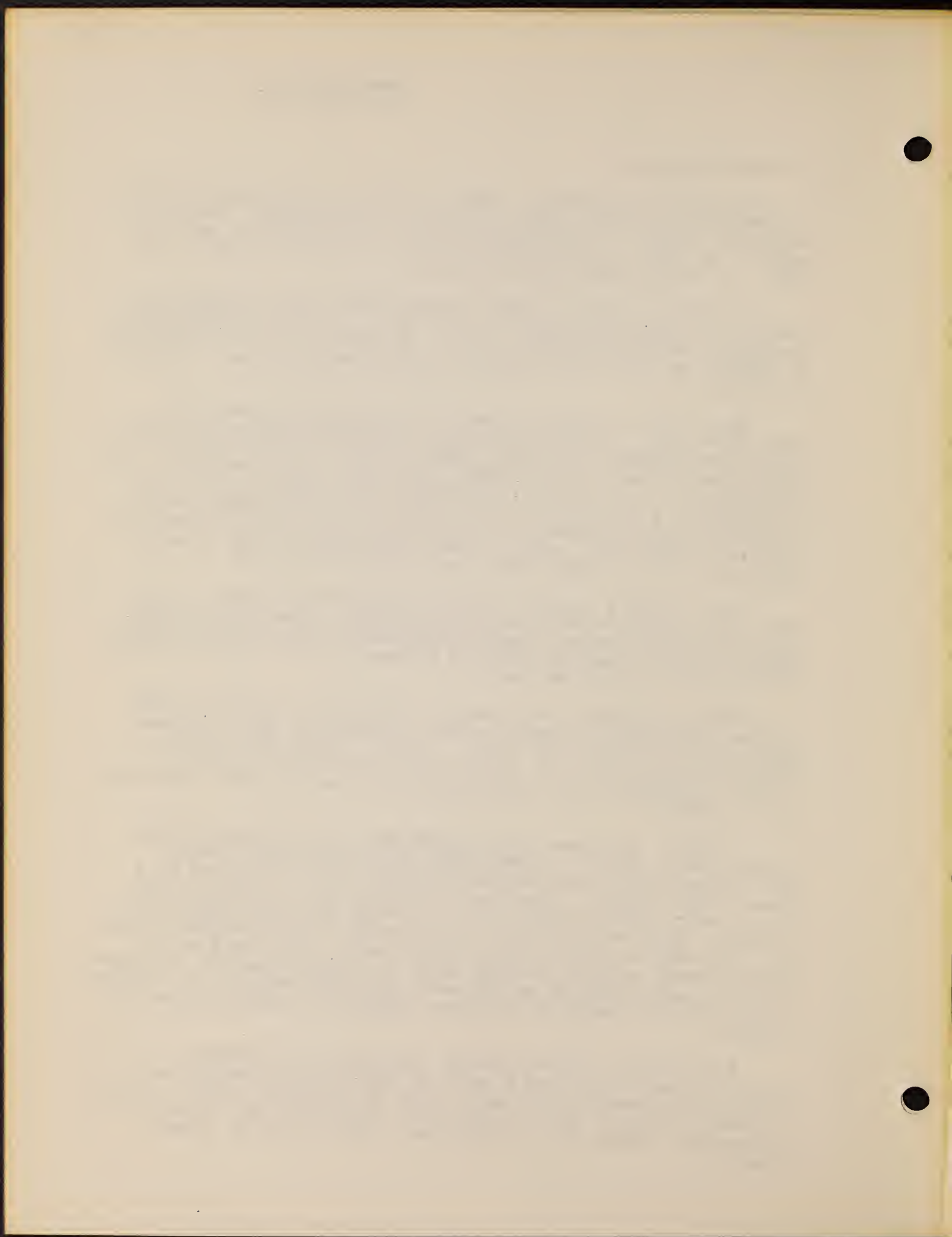
Now J. W., I wish to express deep regret that we didn't meet years ago. You can't imagine how enthusiastically Walter would have entered into every phase of this affair, that you are so interested in. He could have given you so much valuable information, as his mind seemed to run along those lines. To be truthful, I am not too well informed, as the family seemed scattered, and we lived on the prairies for several years after we were married, and seemed to get out of touch with so many relatives, that we might have become acquainted with.

Now, I really haven't told you of my whereabouts. I am here in Bowmanville with Miriam at present. She taught school in Peterborough several years before she was married to Clare Garton, he sold his bus business a year ago, and is now retired. He is rather a young man yet.

Now for another bit of news. Walter was always talking to the girls about a Purdy fortune in England, and they have mentioned it a number of times. I cut a piece out of our Toronto paper only about a week ago, especially for you J.W. I don't suppose it means anything to us, but see what you think of it anyway.

I was so surprised and pleased that you had heard from Agnes Adele. She is a grand girl and nothing will please her better than corresponding with you. She is married to a (don't know whether I can spell it correctly, so don't look too closely) meteorologist, who was sent over from England to Bermuda, Agnes went on a trip to Bermuda, and met Victor Vokes, and they were married in the church there, and came home to Peterborough on their wedding trip, he liked Canada so well that he got a good position in Loblaws, and from there to his present one in the Department of Northern affairs in the government of Ottawa.

By the way, when we were on our trip to California a couple of years ago, how I wish we had know you people, we visited the Grand Canyon among other interesting places. Clare (Miriam's husband) has a sister Mrs. Thomas Cable, living at Sacramento, California. They have a most beautiful estate there.



With reference to Annie (Walter's sister) she always lived in Bellville after she was married, he was a medical doctor. They built their own lovely home there, you should have seen it while in Bellville. Now about Annie's diamonds, the only one I knew of was the ring with three diamonds. Lou got one, Walter one, and I understand Harold got one of the three. Walter had his put in a ring for himself, wore it piling lumber and lost the valuable stone. What a shame! Thus endeth the chapter. eh!

Now my dear cousins, I haven't answered all your questions, but will continue next letter.

Every good wish,
Your cousin,
Eva Mae

Monday
March 26th, 1962

My Dear Cousins,

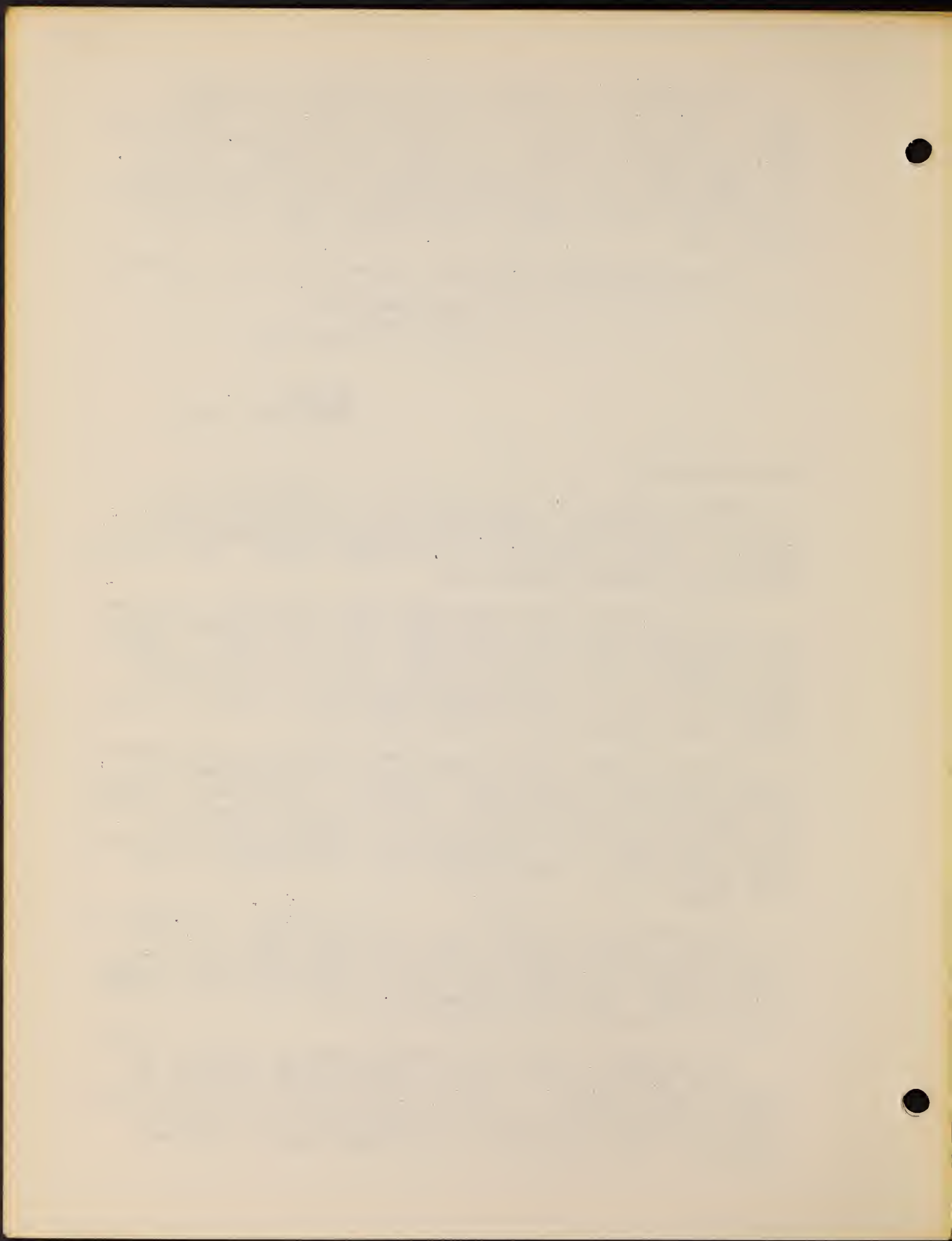
Thanks so much for your last letter, containing such a wealth of information. Really you have both gone into this search in such a "big way" that it is almost unbelievable what you have accomplished so far. I am simply amazed. Your untiring efforts are certainly paying off.

I just received your last letter this past week, as I have sure been "gadding about", have been to Bill's for three weeks, down to Agnes' and am now at Miriam's for a few days. I have a very devoted family, and if they had their way, I would spend precious little time at home in Peterborough. That is home though, and I have so many friends there, and I like it so much, that I can't easily adapt myself other places.

Really, I have studied those lovely snaps of your wonderful family and can just imagine how proud you and Hazel must be of each and every one of them. I regret so often that we hadn't met years ago, even when we were in California a couple of years ago, Clare's (Miriam's husband) sister lives at Sacramento, 4320 Winding Way. We also took in some other points of interest such as Walt Disney, Grand Canyon etc. We traveled by train this time.

You mentioned the Purdy's in West Superior. I remember an Effie Purdy visiting Annie. They were older than I was. I remember when I was attending public school, Annie would walk toward the school to meet the teacher, they were quite "chummy" at that time. Effie if I remember correctly was a kindergarten teacher at her home in West Superior.

You mentioned Walter and I ranching out in Western Canada. Yes, even before we were married Walter brought carloads of cattle down to Ontario. Then in 1913 we moved out north of Medicine Hat, Alberta. I lived in Medicine Hat until he built four ranch houses and got men to prove out on the different sections. When I moved out to the ranch (horse, sheep and



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cattle) I took a very efficient Scotch maid, and began ranch life in earnest, we were three miles from our nearest neighbor. My mother and father thought I surely would never survive such a change, but I am still here. Lou Purdy came out to visit us and just laid around and suffered. One day he said to me. "Eva, I have got to get out of here, these Chinook winds are drying me up like a herring." Between the wind and rattlesnakes, life was so changed to what I was accustomed, but it was a wonderful experience.

Now before I close, I must again thank you for your wonderful letter. I will hope to write more fully next time.

Love to both
Your Cousin
Eva Mae

Peterborough
April 25th, 1962

My Dear Cousins John and Hazel,

Both names are so familiar as I had a dear brother John, who died in Rochester New York, whose son from Sparks, Nevada, expects to visit me in May. Then my son Bill's wife is Hazel.

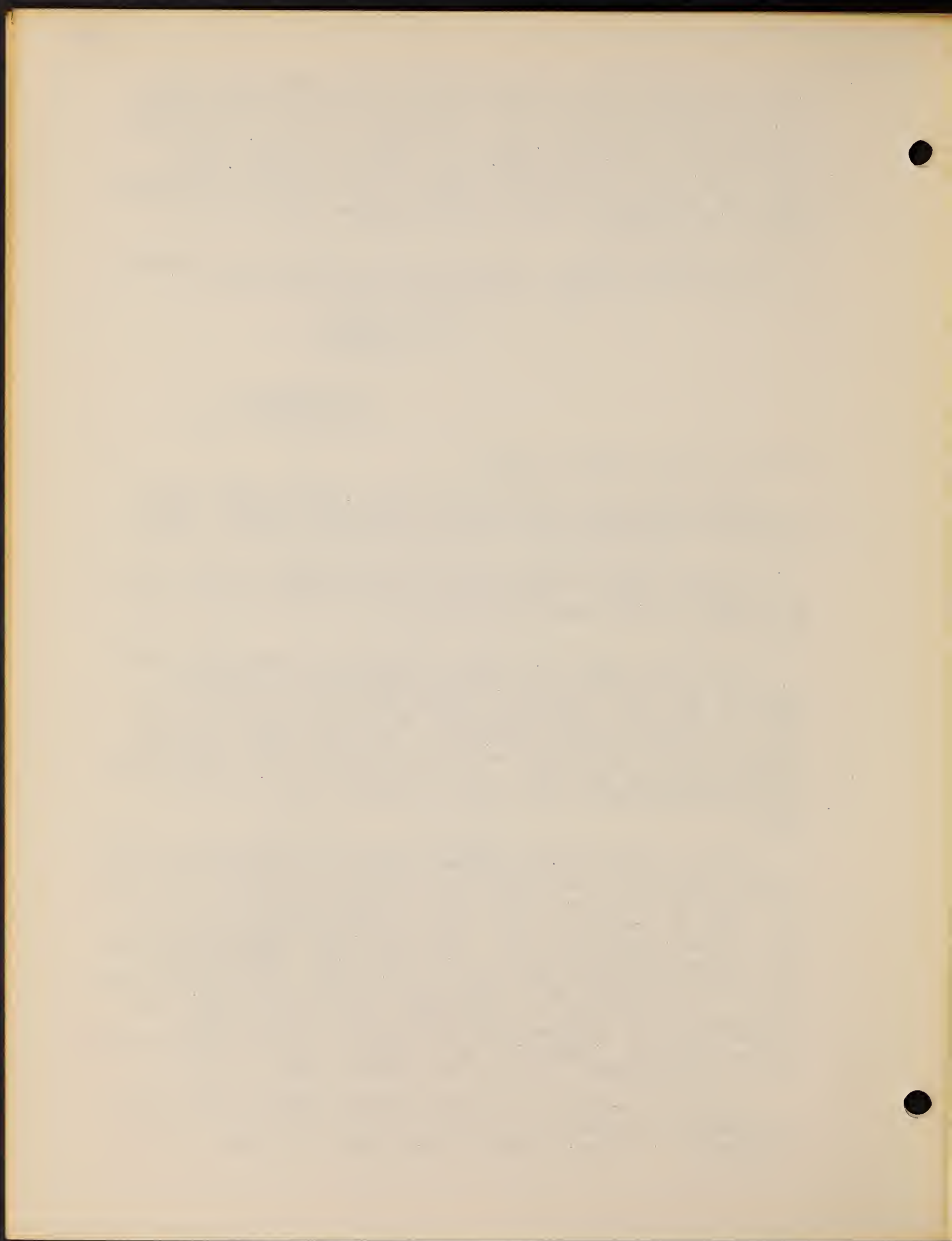
I really hate to start off with an apology, but feel it necessary this time. You have been so wonderfully kind to give me so much of your time and information. I will go into more details later.

I guess you were not aware of my absence from Peterborough for four months during the winter. The kids all thought it would be much more pleasant to spend some time with each of them. I enjoyed it very much, but am really happy to be back to my home, friends and activities. The house was closed all winter, but the oil burner was left on, and I found everything comfortable upon my return. I was so inactive, (as far as work was concerned) that I must get busy and get into the harness again.

Now J.W. I am going to give you a bit of information, that I picked up while visiting Miriam. Before she was married, she taught school in Peterborough, and she later married a fellow, who lived in Bobcaygeon, Ont., by the name of Clare Garton. One day a man by the name of Roy Purdy of Bobcaygeon, came up to her when he learned she was a Purdy girl, and immediately told her she was a relative of his, and during his conversation with her mentioned that he and one or two brothers came from New York. She dismissed it from her mind, as most young girls would, thinking it just a bit odd, and until this search began, and Miriam read your letters, she never gave the conversation another thought. Clare (Miriam's husband) says Roy Purdy still lives in Bobcaygeon. It is a very popular summer resort. 63

Thanks so much for the lovely Easter greeting card. I received all the mail from you while I was away, as it was all forwarded.

Love to both Your Cousin Eva Mae



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Flushing, Michigan
Nov. 7, 1930

Dear Mr. Purdy,

Received your letter in reply to the card I sent your father on his birth month which was in June sometime. I sent it to Tweed, where you said he was boarding and living. I do hope he got it. I always liked to see him come to visit us when Annie was with us; he was a good man also your Mother we liked them both. Dr. Frank said he did think such a lot of him and respected both him and your Mother. Sorry to hear of his death, we had hoped to see him when we go home next summer, but at his advanced age we could not expect him to last much longer so there is only you and Lou left and Mrs. Will is still living in Castleton. She and the family we have to pass through Colbourne on our way home. Dr. Milton Wather is still living in Tweed and my youngest brother lives in Vancouver B.C., my two sisters in Belleville and myself here in Flushing, Michigan. We (Mr. Reid and I) were married Dec. 29, 1926. We went to school together, we are comfortable but not at all rich, would be pleased to meet your wife and family, also yourself. Mr. Reid also would be pleased to meet you, we are very happy together.

Poor Annie had her good points, she was quite a trial after she had the stroke she clung to Mother and me to much, and tried to make her as comfortable and happy as I could. Their life was a short one. But I trust they are together, we did miss them so much.

Wishing you every success in your business.

Yours truly,

Mr. & Mrs. George W. Reid 65

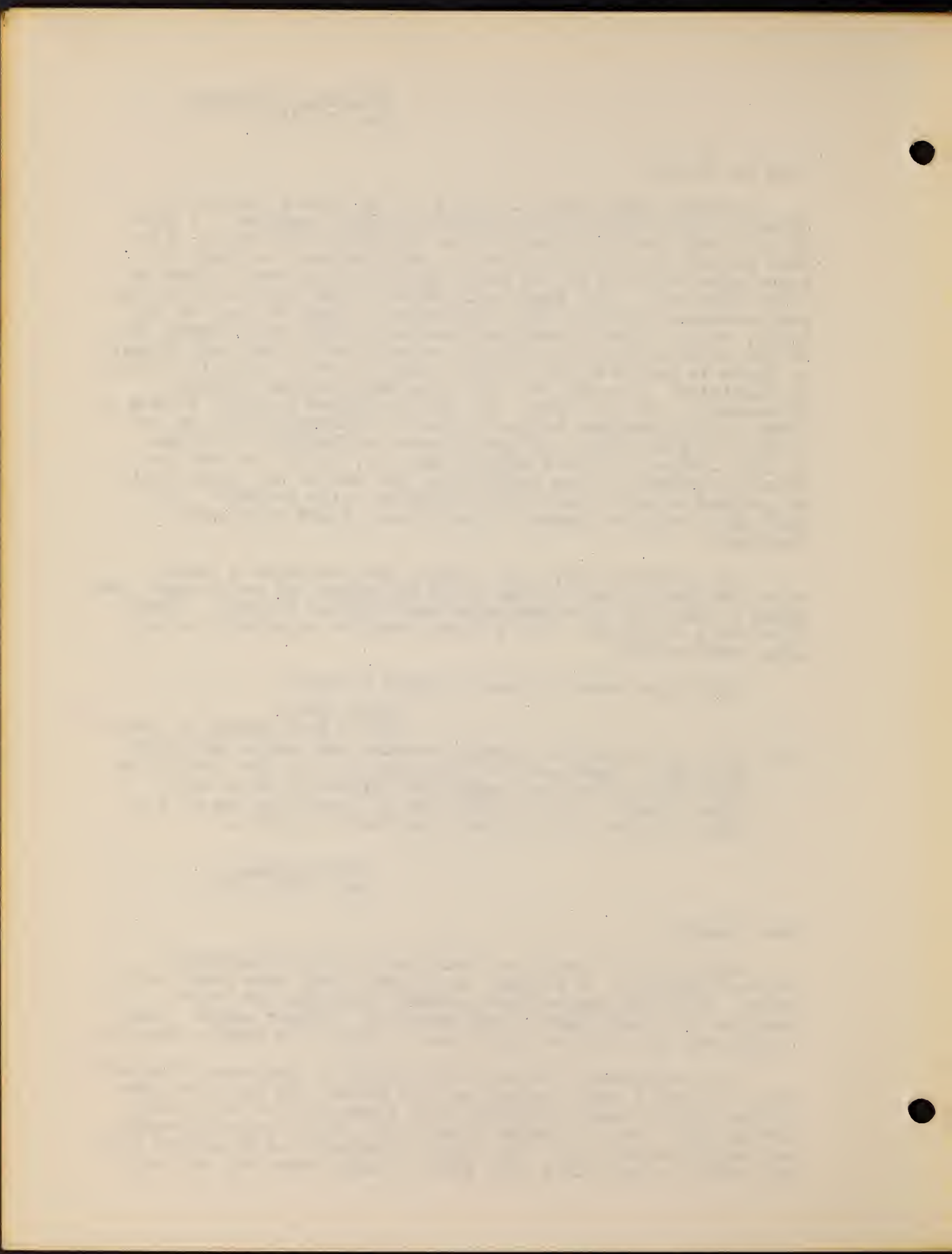
P.S. This is a beautiful farming country and people are very friendly. Thank you for answering my card and letting us know of your father's death, he certainly was a good type of man. Will be very glad to hear from you at any time and keep in touch with the Purdy families.

Peterborough
Dec. 10th, 1961

Dear Cousins,

First of all I wish to thank you for those beautiful colored pictures. I thought, of course, they were just loaned to me. Bill and Miriam have perused them, but the other daughter in Ottawa hasn't seen them yet. Thanks again. Did I tell you that Bill's wife's name is Hazel. (a family name, eh?)

I am enclosing a picture of my home in Castleton. Father 66 built it, and I was born and married there. It was next door to the United Church. (Methodist in those days) a well built, lovely home, but so changed through the years, that one would scarcely recognize it. The trees, shrubbery and fence are gone. Note the tie post out at the front. There were two, but only



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one shows, as the front gate leading to the verandahs doesn't show. A cement walk led to each veranda and opened in the vestibule.

You will have thought by this time that I am not answering your questions that you asked in your last letter. I am a bit vague. I admit, and thought Maud (Will's wife) would be more definite. You see she settled and raised the family in the Purdy home, while Walter and I were away from Castleton for years, and out of touch with so many of the family. We lived out in Alberta for years. Walter owned a horse, sheep and a cattle ranch. It was located north of Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Another thing you asked for the names and addresses of our family. (Walter's) Grace Miriam, (Mrs. Clare Garton) Box 809, Bowmanville, Ont. Agnes Adele, (Mrs. Victor Vokes), she was married in Bermuda, went down for a trip and met a meteorologist, and they came home on their wedding trip. He is in the Government at Ottawa, and on a trip to Alaska at present. Their address is, 47 Bower St., Ottawa 1, Ont. Bill's address is 140 Burnham St., Bellville, Ont. His name is Wm. Walter.

I have two brothers buried in Castleton, one buried in Rochester, N.Y., one buried in Elgin, Ill., one buried in Sparks, Nevada. Our family consisted of 5 boys and I was the only gal. (poor me.)

I have already written Maud and enclosed your letter, so she will probably give you the information that you asked for. Also I found a letter the other day, but haven't any idea who it's from. But you may be able to cipher it out.

If ever there was a messed up scrawl, this is one. I had no thought of rambling on and on like this but so many little things came to mind. So hope this is not too tiring.

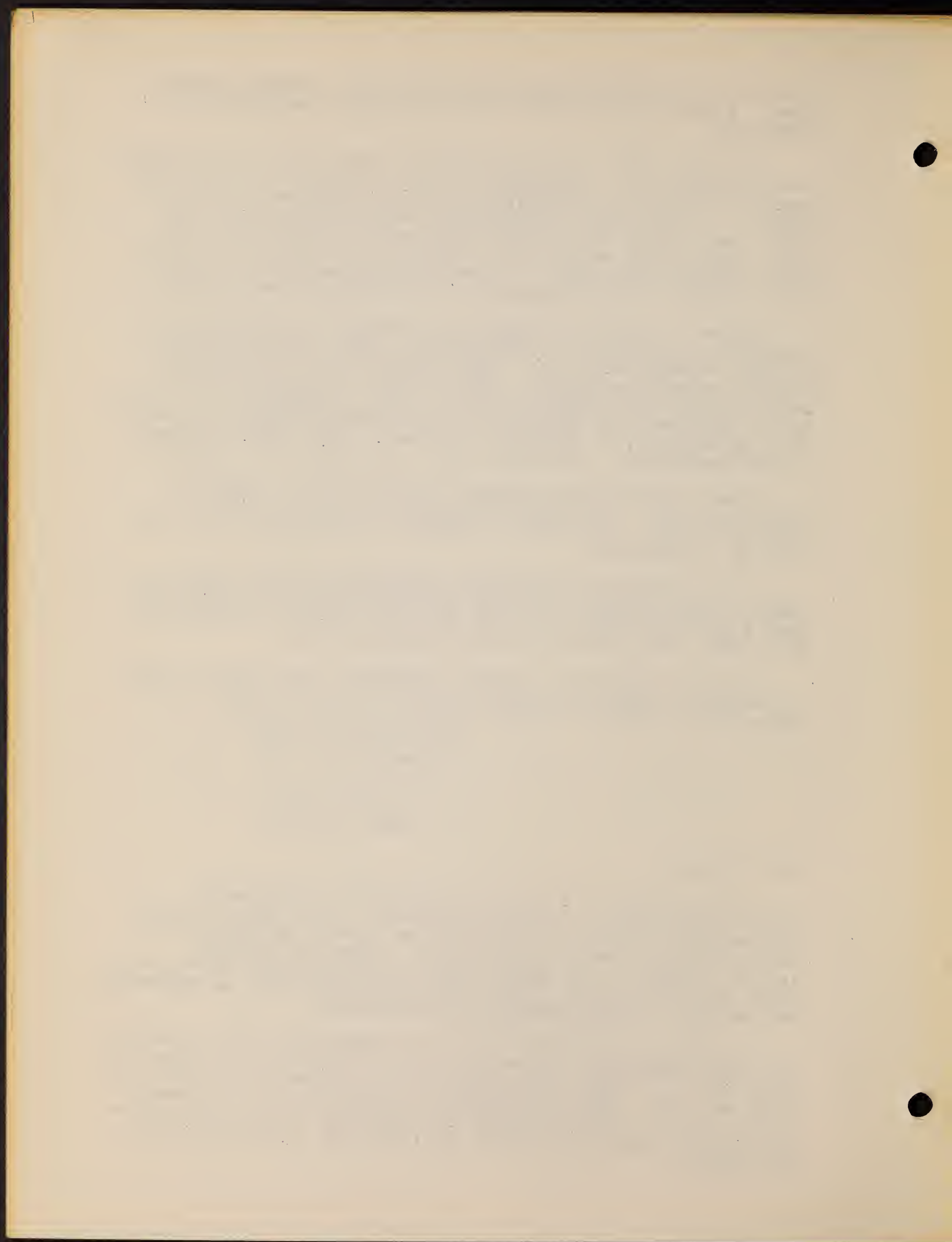
Best wishes to both,
Your Cousin Eva

Peterborough
Nov. 22, 1961

Dear Cousins,

It is difficult for me to find words to express my appreciation for your extreme kindness, for writing two such informative letters. It has given me a world of information of my husband's family history that I never would have learned otherwise. My great regret is that it has taken place a few years too late. Poor Walter would have been so interested and entered into the search whole heartedly.

I was up to Miriam's when your first letter came, containing those beautiful colored pictures, so there was a delay in getting it. I will return them to you as soon as the girls and Bill see them. Many, many thanks for sending them. I have spent about two hours "ferreting" through old snap shots since your letter came in this P.M. and have come up with a bit of information.



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You asked about our family. Miriam is Mrs. Clare Garton. (He is retired) Box 809, Bowmanville, Ont. Agnes is Mrs. Victor Vokes, her husband is promotion officer for the department of Northern Affairs in Ottawa. Her address is 47 Bower St., Ottawa 1, Ont. They have just bought a new home there. William Walter (Bill) is at 140 Burnham St., Belleville, Ont. As you say he is a very busy boy. I feel that he is working too hard.

I am sorry to curtail this letter, but I wish to get it in this mail. Also I am anxious to acknowledge those two grand letters, and to thank you again for your kindness. You mentioned that I wasn't in the other pictures. Well here I am (ha ha)!

It won't be necessary to return the remembrance cards. All I am anxious about are the three pictures.

Now I hope you are both well.

Love for Now, From your Cousin
Eva Mae

Dec. 9, 1961
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Cousin,

You will be surprised to receive this I know for you have never seen me. However, it is a most sincere greeting from one "Purdy" to another. Mother (Mrs. Walter Palmer Purdy) of Peterborough has probably told you that she has a daughter living in Ottawa. She has told me of your visit and your nice letters to her. And I shall look forward to meeting you sometime. I think Mother may have given you our address, but since we have moved recently I will give you our address in case you may not have it correct. It is 47 Bower St., Ottawa 1, Ontario.

It is my understanding that you are writing a history of the Purdys. I am most interested in it myself and I hope you meet with lots of luck. Too bad you hadn't met my dad. Dad and I were very close, and though it is over 3 years since he passed away I still miss him tremendously. They tell me I am very much like my dad and do I ever love to hear it, for he was "tops" as far as I am concerned. Believe me I am proud of my Purdy heritage. They came out on the Mayflower didn't they? Have you ever managed to find the name mentioned in any books on the Pilgrims?

I must tell you that my mother was very favorably impressed with your wife. So I just hope that I am the very first to wish you both a wonderful Christmas and happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Yours, Agnes (Purdy) Vokes
Victor, Agnes & Carol 67

THE
JOURNAL
OF
THE
AMERICAN
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHED WEEKLY
CHICAGO, ILL.
1914

Letter to: J.W. Masten
from: Agnes Vokes

140
47 Bower Street
Ottawa 1, Ontario
December 24, 1962

Dear Cousins Wesley & Hazel,

Believe me I feel both very sorry and very much ashamed not to have answered your wonderful letters months ago. I have read and re-read them and find them intensely interesting--also the clipping concerning your brother and the nice snaps which I will take good care of for you. And I will certainly try to do better in 1963.

Unfortunately I cannot tell you much about my grandfather Purdy because I never saw much of him. The person who could probably give you some information though is Miss Annie Howlett 68 of Park Street South, Peterborough (corner of McGill Street). Now that address might not be exact--the house I believe faces on McGill Street, and I don't know the number, but an envelope addressed as above will reach her I feel sure. She practically grew up with Samuel Purdy--at least she lived at the store in Purdyville for probably 35 or 40 years--she waited on customers and kept the books.

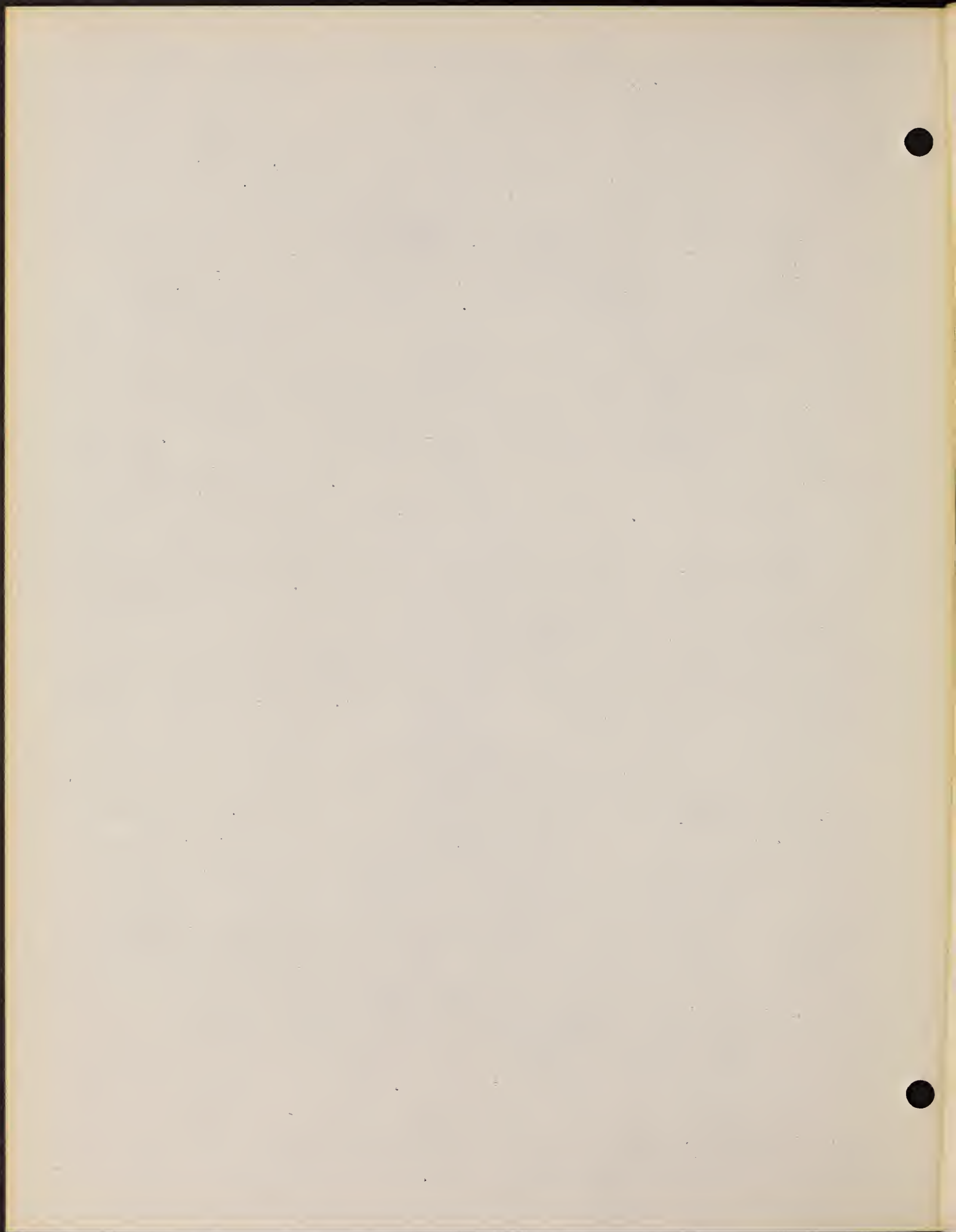
I do believe grandpa was a clever man, a good manager and extremely kind. My aunt Mabel who married mother's brother says she will never forget how wonderfully kind grandpa Purdy was to her when she went back to Purdyville as a young school teacher. But it is this Miss Howlett who might be able to tell you some interesting stories. I am not sure that she would take the time and the trouble to write at great length because she is getting well up in years and her health isn't the best, but I'm sure she would help you all she can if you would go and see her the next time you are in Canada.

Before I forget to mention it, I want to tell you that the likeness between your handwriting and my dad's is almost phenomenal. I would think I were looking at one of his letters. Isn't that surprising? And they claim our handwriting portrays our character, so maybe you are a lot like Dad. It would seem that you must be, for he would have been so tremendously interested in this wonderful work which you are doing--in fact it is just what he too would like to have done.

Did you know that there is a Purdy crest in England. Dad said it is a peacock. Do you by any chance have it? Would I ever love to get it! How does one go about those things? 69

You asked if I knew my cousins Marjory, Beatrice, Don and Sam. Yes, I knew them when we were all kids together in Castleton where we lived for about 5 years (until 1923) where Mother took care of her Mother and Dad until they died--during which time my Dad was ranching in Western Canada, Alberta.

I have tried at the two libraries here to get the book you mentioned "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte", but without success. However, I have secured the name of a Montreal firm which may be able to obtain a copy for me.



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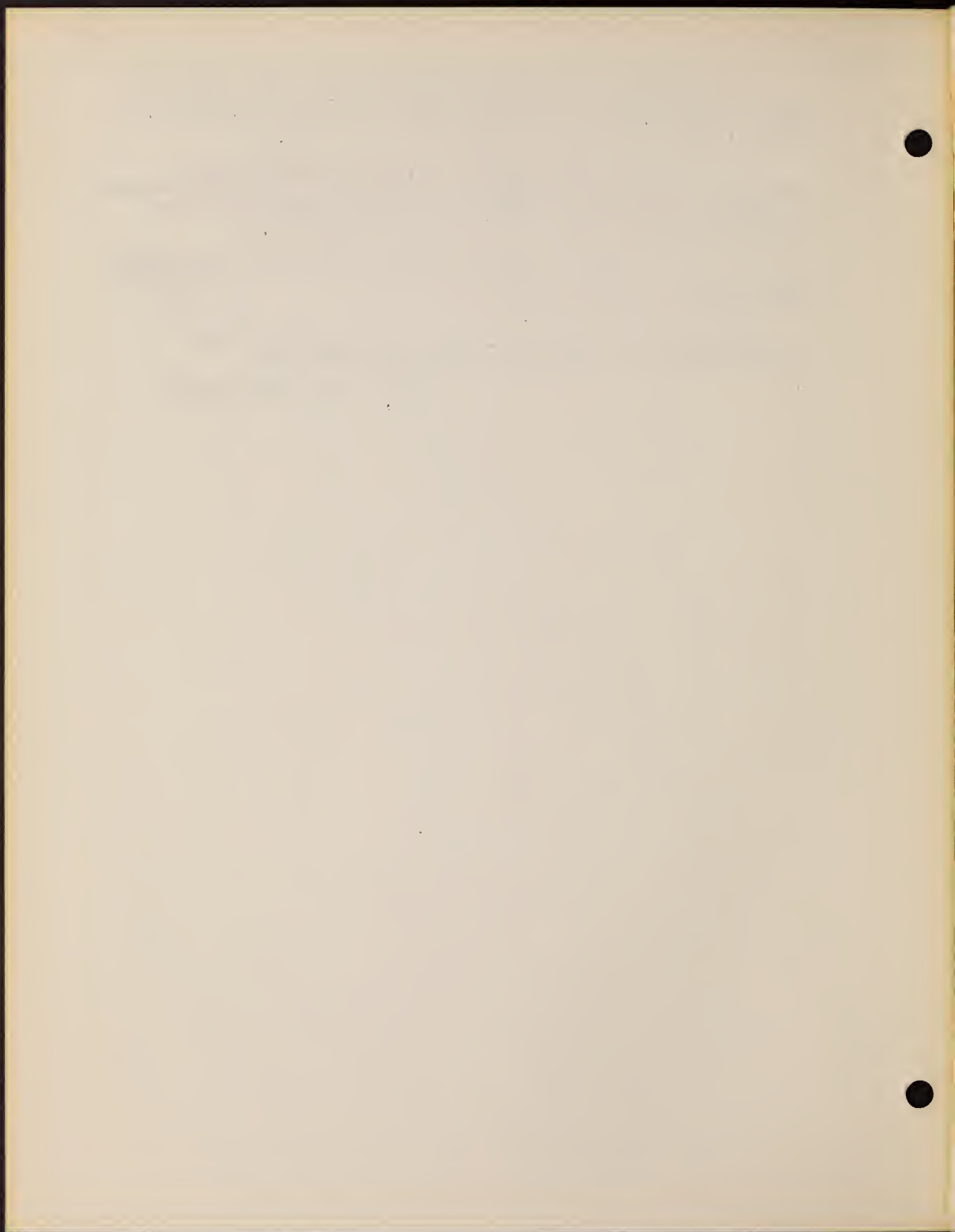
I was sorry to learn from my Mother this summer that cousin Hazel had been ill. I do hope she is better now and will be able to enjoy Christmas with her eleven wonderful grandchildren. You are indeed fortunate in having so fine a family.

I am returning the newspaper clipping regarding your brother as I thought you might wish to keep it. Am also enclosing a clipping concerning my husband's work as I seem to get the impression that you think he is still in Meteorology.

Will look forward to meeting both of you, maybe next summer when you are in Canada again. You must have had a very wonderful and thrilling trip last year.

Our Very Best Wishes to all of you for a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous 1963.

Agnes, Vic & Carol Vokes



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Effie Gertrude Purdy
118 Chapola St. Apt. 3
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Feb. 3, 1962

John Wesley Masten--

Dear Cousin if so I may address you. Your letter reached me yesterday and I was quite surprized as well as pleased to know one in the family was so close to me. As for any information I can give you will be very little. There was a family by the name of Fretz, mother and I visited a few times in Superior, Wis.-- that they were related in some way I am sure. But just how I cannot say but as I remember it was a cousin relationship. Whether they are there now I cannot say as it was many years ago--I did visit Aunt Liza in Castleton--Uncle Lon in Brighton also her daughter Minn and her family. I have not heard from any of them in a long, long time. I also visited Frankie P. Mendell. Cousin Annie and I called her Auntie Frank. She is mother's father's brother's daughter, a really second cousin, I believe. I also saw Uncle Ridley and I think it was down to Codington my cousin Anna and I went to see Uncle Lon and Grandma Palmer. Who was then living. I did not see Grandma Purdy but do remember her visiting us in Indianapolis. We as a family moved around quite a great deal, I would say, Mason City, Iowa--Mankato--Montivideo, Minn.--Minneapolis--Superior. You did not mention Aunt Lill the youngest sister in mother's family. She married Charlie Lincoln and lived in St. Paul. I had a letter once from Uncle Worden Palmer once while in Superior but have lost all track of him now. He and Uncle Theodore were together, I believe. The older members of the family, I seem to know very little about. Mother's mother's name was Lomas and I know she and grandpa were early settlers in Canada. Uncle Philip lived in Bellville. They have all died. There was a little boy in his family called P.R., the P was for Phillip.

I wish I could be of more help but cannot. Father did many different things in his life, was in many businesses. Did well in all ubt did not stick to any one only long enough to get it well started.

All the old family pictures I had left from Mother's Album I sent on in to Nellie but doubt if she has them now. I recog- some of them you sent as being among them.

Would you like me to return the ones you sent me or did you mean for me to keep them--

Perhaps some day you and Mrs. Masten will be down this way and can drop in and see me. I have a small apartment here. I had been living in Woodland for the past thirty years or more-- but after visiting Nellie in Duluth and her grandson in Chicago I came here--I have just passed my 87 birthday.

Yours sincerely,
Effie

1898

My dear Mr. [Name],

I have just received your letter of the 15th inst. and am glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this finds you the same. I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I have been very busy lately but I have managed to find some time to write you.

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I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I have been very busy lately but I have managed to find some time to write you.

Letter from Effie Purdy Daughter of Ralph Purdy

March 13, 1962

Ralph Purdy's Family 7/

Wife Sarah M. Palmer. ^{Mother} Maiden name Lomus. Born March 11, 1843. Died in 1917 at the age of 74 years. Married at the age of 25 years.

Their children--

Nellie Francis--born in 1870, Feb. 11 in Trenton. Effie Gertrude--born in Hastings, Canada, year 1874, Dec. 11. Homer Burton, born in Iowa, year 1876, died in 1913 at the age of 37. He was born in the month Oct. 31.

Nellie married to Nat Thompson in --had one child Ralph Purdy Thompson, a World War boy--now deceased. Later married Frank Scriburn of Duluth. No children.

Effie Gertrude taught kindergarten in Superior, Wisconsin thirty years.

Homer Burton married Bell--her last name has gone from me. They had two children--Lillian and Irene--both living and both nuns--one in Villa Scholastica--now called College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. The other in Braimend, Minn.--in hospital--both fine women.

Burt's death was tragic, he lost his mind and was taken by a friend of the family to Fugus Falls where he shortly died. He was brought home for burial in the family lot in So. Superior, Wis.--must learn the name of the cemetery--he served in the Spanish American War.

Father died at the age of 67 in 1907. Born July 12, 1840.

Nellie's son Ralph married Rose Anderson. They had two sons, Ralph Purdy Thompson, Jr. and little Howard who died at the early age of two years.

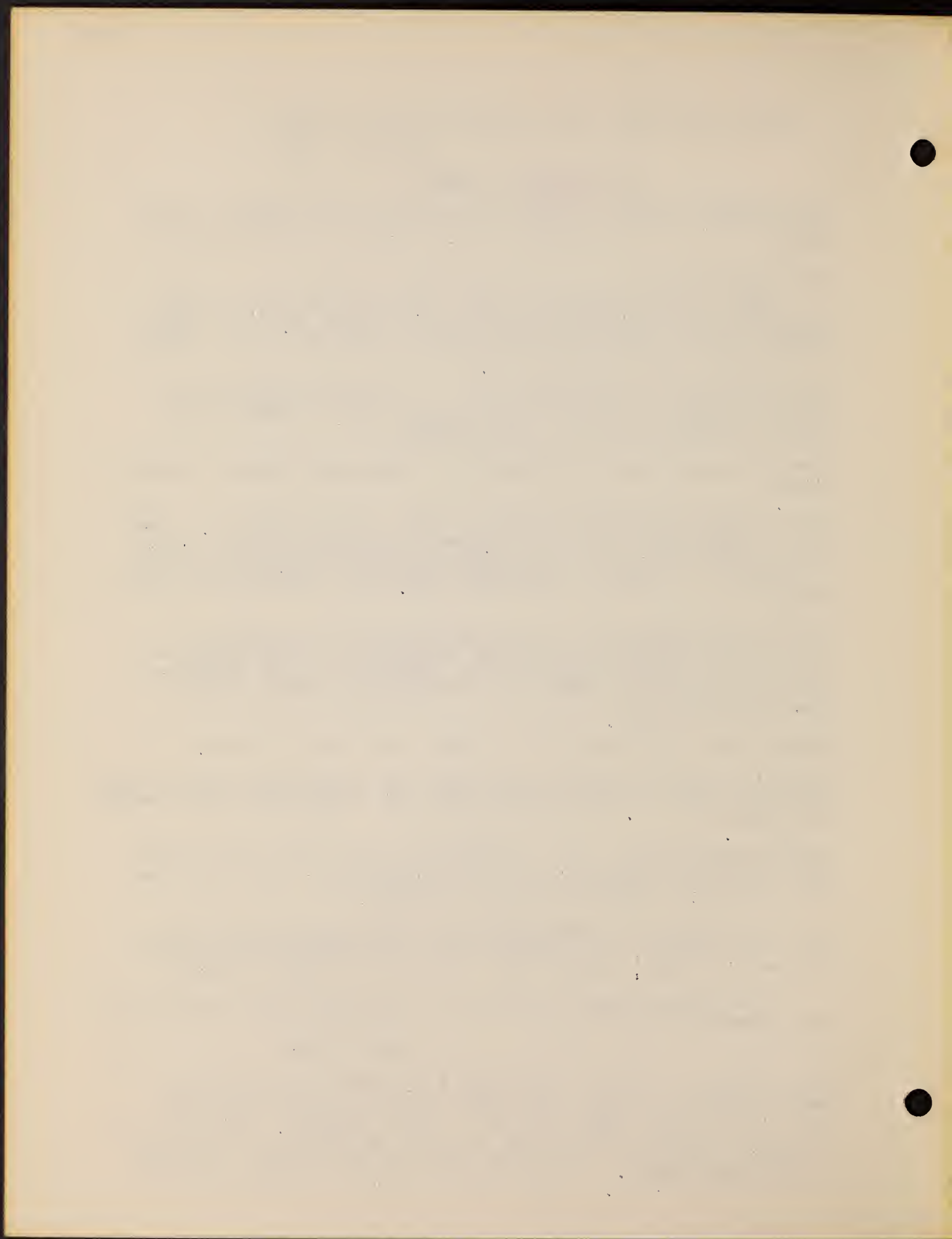
Ralph Purdy Thompson, Jr., married Marion and they have adopted two children, a boy and a girl--the little boy is now seven and the little girl five--they live in Chicago.

This is all the information I can give you at this time--Must learn Marion's last name--think it was Anderson as she was a cousin of Ralph's second wife. Then the adopted children.

Hope this may help you out--if I can answer any questions will be pleased to do so-

Cousin Effie

The pictures are Nellie, Effie and Burt taken in Mason City. Ralph's adopted two and Aunt Mary and Cousin Maud, myself and Aunt Mary's great grand children's, Maud, grandma. This was taken in Portland, Oregon--can not give the date but it was before I stopped teaching. So it must have been about 1922 or perhaps a few years earlier. I took a years leave of teaching and went



and visited friends in Seattle and Aunt Mary and Uncle Charlie in Portland, Oregon. I do not know now--but think they have died--Maud and her husband and daughter visited me in Woodland Hills at one time and that is the last time I heard from them--I shall ask to have them returned--no hurry--thought you might like to see them--

As for mother's family I do not know very much about them. I do know Grandpa Palmer and Uncle Philip in Bellville were brothers and were very early settlers in Canada--just what part I do not know--Smithfield-Codington, Brighton and Trenton are all familiar names. I have visited Uncle Lon in Brighton, Uncle Philip in Bellville, Grandma and her son Lew in Codington. Uncle Lon had quite a large farm there--his sons Uncle Worden and Theodore were both unmarried and so was Len. He had scarlet fever when a small child and it left him deaf--so he and grandma were together. Grandpa Palmer died when we were living in Montevideo he left mother quite a sum of money--

Mother attended college in Bellville, I believe, it was with Cousin Frankie. Grandpa's brother's child, I believe, Aunt Liza also was there--it might have been in Trenton but believe Bellville is right.

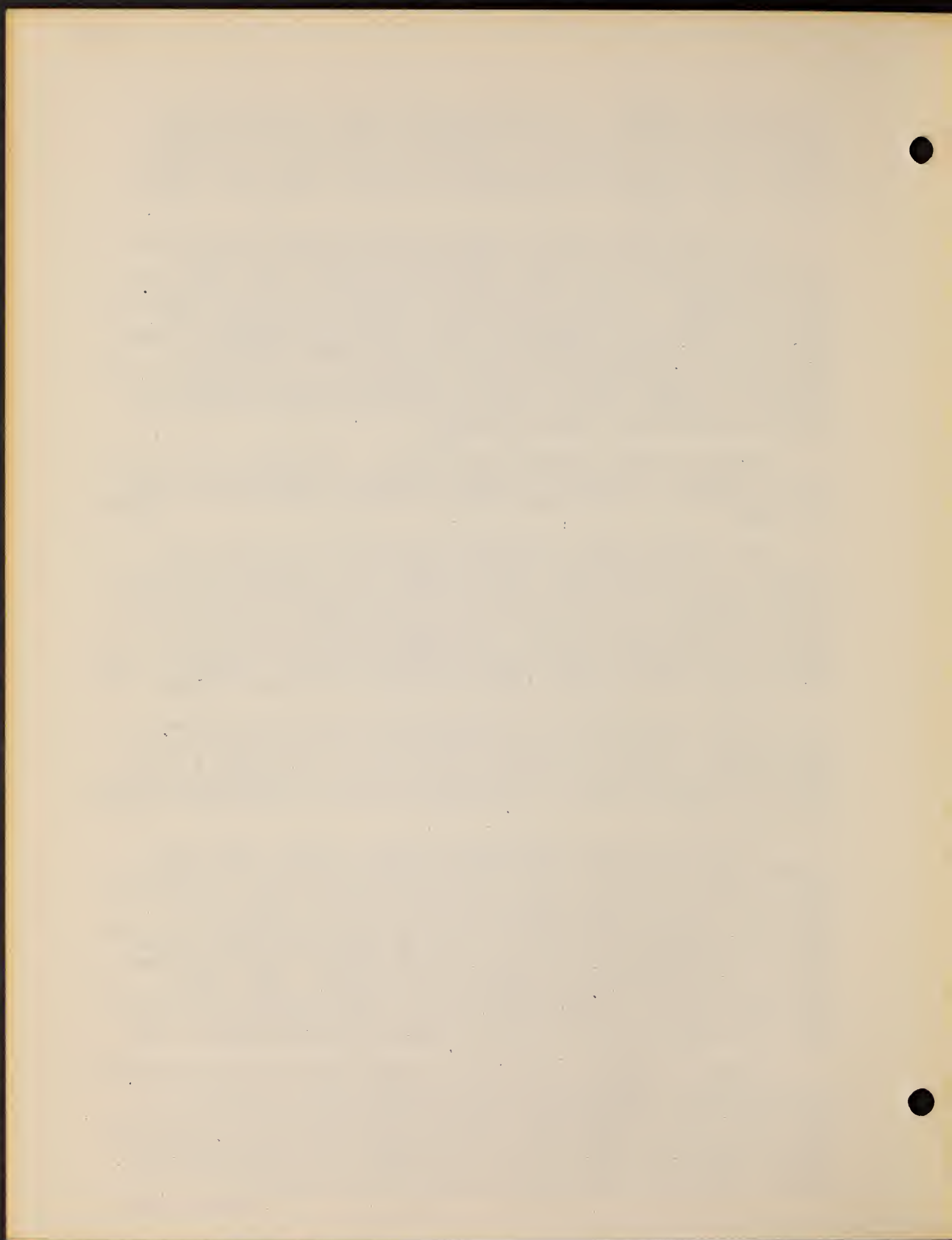
Both Grandpa Palmer and Uncle Philip has been successful farmers in the early days. The Farleys were related in some way--I have heard mother speak of them and at one time I visited with Cousin Frankie at a Farley farm and do know they were related to a Dr. Farley--but that is all. The Jones I know nothing of. I remember visiting Aunt Maturi in Brighton--she was then living with Minnie, her daughter and I remember Minnie had two children at that time, little girls and the lone you speak of was one of them.

You tell me Uncle Lons family in Brighton are all dead--Maud was in Toronto the last I heard from her. I had a letter from Maud Vrooman a short time ago. She and some others gave a party for Nellie on her last birthday--Feb. 11--which I thought was very sweet of them--she told me all about it--those friends were together and made it up.

You ask about Uncle Theodore and Uncle Worden, they were brothers of mothers and I think Medicine Hat in Canada was where Uncle Worden was when he wrote me, I cannot say--I know I was most surprized to hear from him and receive a twenty dollar bill enclosed--from something Burt said in one of his letters they were interested in dry ice. This is all very vague--but Burt did see one or both of them at one time. He was in Bon Falls, I believe and it was in Medicine Hat he saw them, I think. The family relations are not well known by me. We always seemed so far from them all--and moved about a great deal. I will try and tell you all I can about father and his many moves later--enough for now.

I think I remember mother saying something about Massachusetts, her folks and fathers, as I understand it, were English. I believe father and Burt were with Uncle Charlie at one time. It must have been in Mason City. Burt sent me a present of a beautiful cup and saucer and mother a china sugar bowl and creamer. So he must have been there. We were living in an apartment at that time. May what I have written prove of some help.

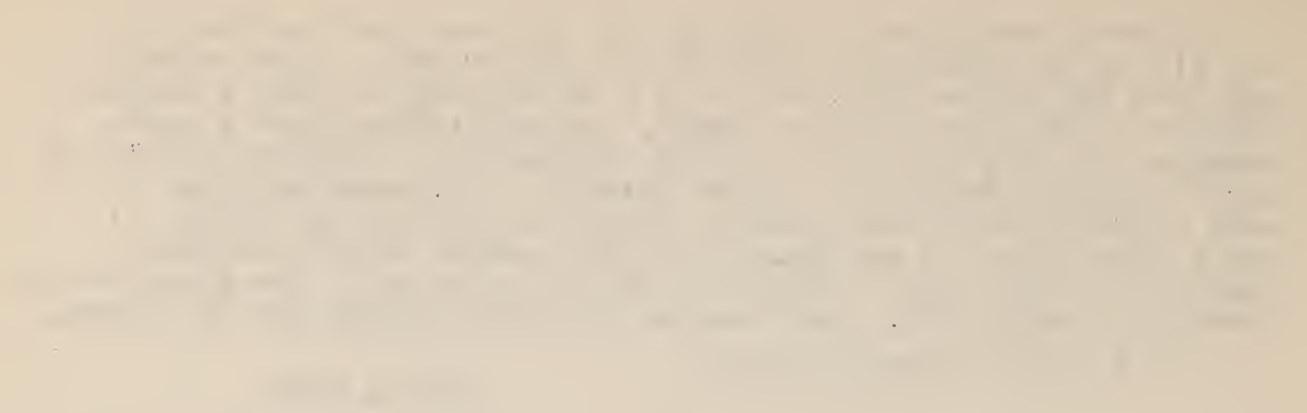
Effie Purdy



I have been slow in sending the pictures back as they do not fit in my envelopes. But will do so shortly. Last word I had from Nellie was the post card I am sending you and a letter written by my niece Lillian Purdy, one of brother Burt's girls. Perhaps I told you she is a sister in Duluth, a teacher in one of their Catholic Schools. A fine person. I visited her when I went to see Nellie last summer. She was then at the Villa. I had a guest room in the main building, second floor near her. Everything very nice. Lillian took me all around, the grounds are lovely, especially the wood back of the Villa which are not shown.

Will return pictures soon.

Cousin Effie



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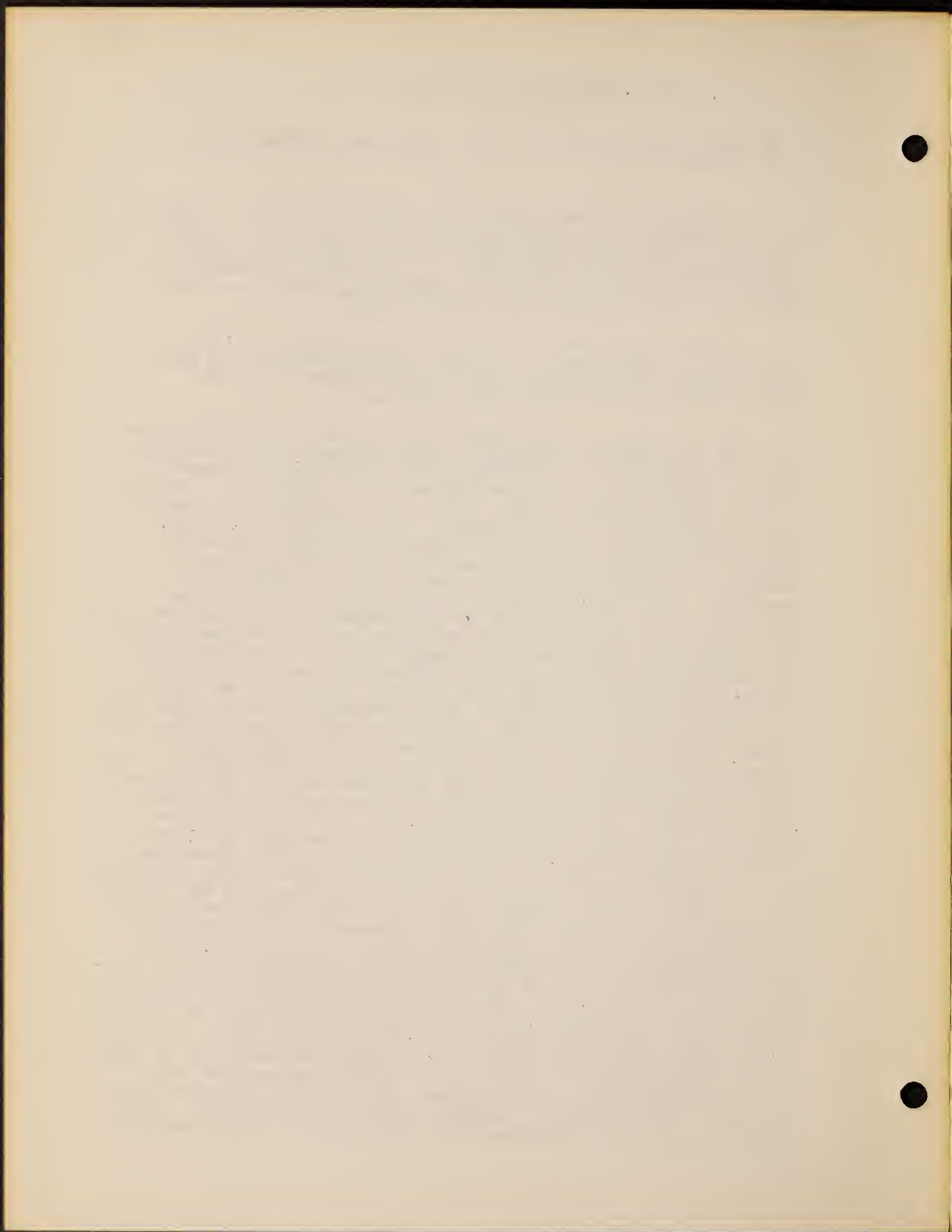
All I Remember About Father
(Ralph Purdy)

By his daughter, Effie Purdy. Ralph was another brother of my mother. J.V.H.

In Trenton he had a farm and a hardware store. A spark from an engine caught the wheat on fire on his farm. Nellie was born in Trenton in 1870 and it must have been in 1874 that mother left for Mason City. I was born in Hastings in Canada in 1874 and was only two weeks old, Nellie was four--- Burt was born in Mason City, Iowa in 1876.

Father, if I have it right, was in the Boot & Shoe business and doing well. We had a square there and in time were going to build---Uncle David and Aunt Ada, I do not remember only from things mother told me.

How we came to leave there I do not know but we did leave and went to Mankato, Minnesota. There father was in business. He had a grocery store and whether it was a sort of general store I cannot say. We lived on the street upstairs, I remember I had a large rocking horse. There was a swing in the hall and a large carpet on all floors. I fell down stairs, did not get hurt and Aunt Lillie was with me for awhile. We left Mankato for Montevideo, I do not know how long we lived in Mankato. In Montevideo father had a grocery store and a creamery. He took Burt and me on one of his trips in the country to see farmers about getting cream for his creamery. He had quite a little property there---four stores---one was rented to a restaurant man---one to a jeweler---one we lived upstairs over the jewelry store---one was vacant but the one up stairs across from us was rented to Mr. & Mrs. Lumbrack. He also had a square there upon the hill. Had a foundation for a house and had planted trees---four rows around the outside and in the yard. I have heard it is now one of the prettiest places there. I have often thought I would have been traveling before we left there for I remember he was away from home and how we used to look forward to his coming---Well from here we went to Minneapolis. Father was then traveling for a cracker and spice company on the island there and could be home more so that is the reason for this move. He bought nice property there too. A lot at Hamilton and two lots at Lake Harritta. (That spelling is not right). Then again I am not sure but believe he wanted to go into a pickle manufacturing with someone and how or what happened I do not know. The next I remember he was selling office furniture and in Superior, Wis., it was a new country and he was selling furniture faster than he could supply it. He did not like that. It was then he bought out the bakery and this was all new to him. He found it hard to get good honest bakers and this did not last too long. He took Burt out of school and, of course, mother did not approve of that. It was a few years later Burt went to the Spanish-American War in 1898. That would make Burt 22 and me 24. Nellie was married and living in Minneapolis at the time. After Burt came home from the war, I don't seem to remember just what did happen. Father sold the shop and I was teaching. Burt went to Cass Lake and



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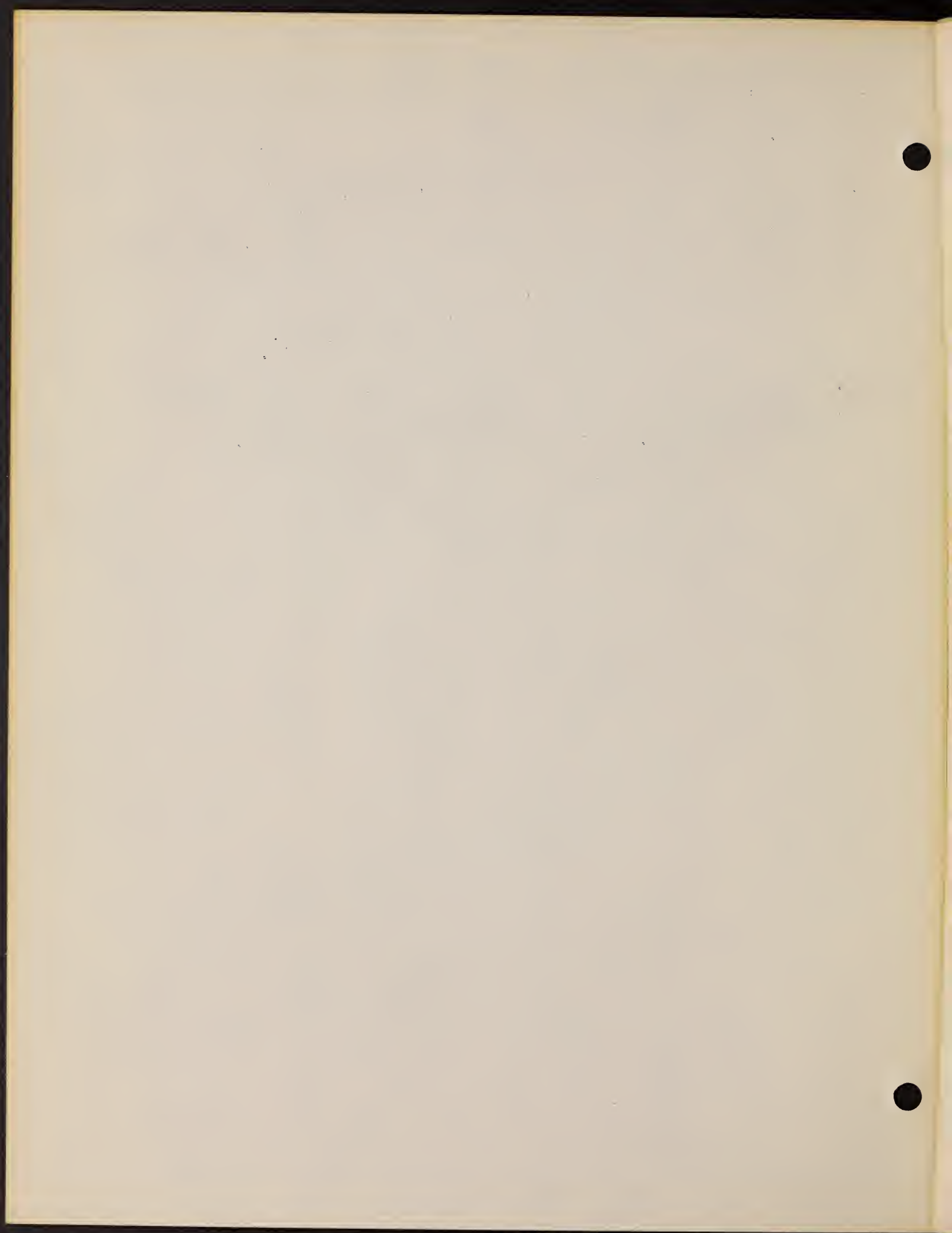
I just don't know--mother and I were alone. Aunt Lisa, Walter and Will visited us and Cousin George Purdy of Iowa, in Superior.

Nellie came home with her baby and well I just don't remember. Burt and father were in Bonebells, either in Montana or North Dakota. How long I don't know. He did not come home for some time but we often heard from him. He came home in 1907 ill with heart trouble and died the same year. We were all home, Burt, Nellie and myself and, of course, mother--we all loved father dearly, he was a fine man. I hope this may help. It is the best I can do.

Effie Purdy
118 Chapala St. Apt. 3
Santa Barbara, Calif.

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P.S. I believe father and Burt were with Uncle Charlie at one time in Iowa Falls, Iowa. Also he must have been sometime in Mason City, Iowa. Burt sent me a present of a beautiful cup and saucer and mother a china sugar bowl and creamer. So he must have been there.



Palmer Geneology

Family Record from the Bible of Phillip Palmer, the brother of Wilson L. Palmer. Nellie Purdy the daughter of Sarah Purdy obtained this record from Frankie P. Neudell. Frankie was the daughter of Phillip Palmer. She lived many years in Trenton, Ontario. These records are owned now by one of the daughters of Homer Purdy. Homer is a brother of Nellie and Effie. The three are children of Ralph Purdy and his wife Sarah Melissa Purdy nee Palmer.

FAMILY RECORD

MISCELLANEOUS

Wilson L. Palmer and Laura T. Loomis were married Dec. 30th, 1835. Wilson L. Palmer b. August 2nd 1806
 Homer B. Palmer b. Nov. 10th 1836.
 Chester Palmer b. Jan 13th 1845.
 Atwell Palmer b. June 20th 1847.
 Warden Palmer b. Oct 21st 1849.
 Theodore Merriit Palmer March 16-1852.
 Lewis Leaveus Palmer July 2nd 1854.
 Laura T. Loomis b. Sept 17th 1814.
 Mary Elza Palmer b. March 4th 1839.
 Sarah Melissa Palmer March 11, 1843.
 Lydia Aurelia Palmer Sept. 9th 1857.

Written by Nellie F. Purdy
 Jan. 27-1890 in Canada at Grandma Palmers.

FAMILY RECORD

DEATHS

Ralph Wellington Purdy, age 67, b-July 12, 1840
 d-1906

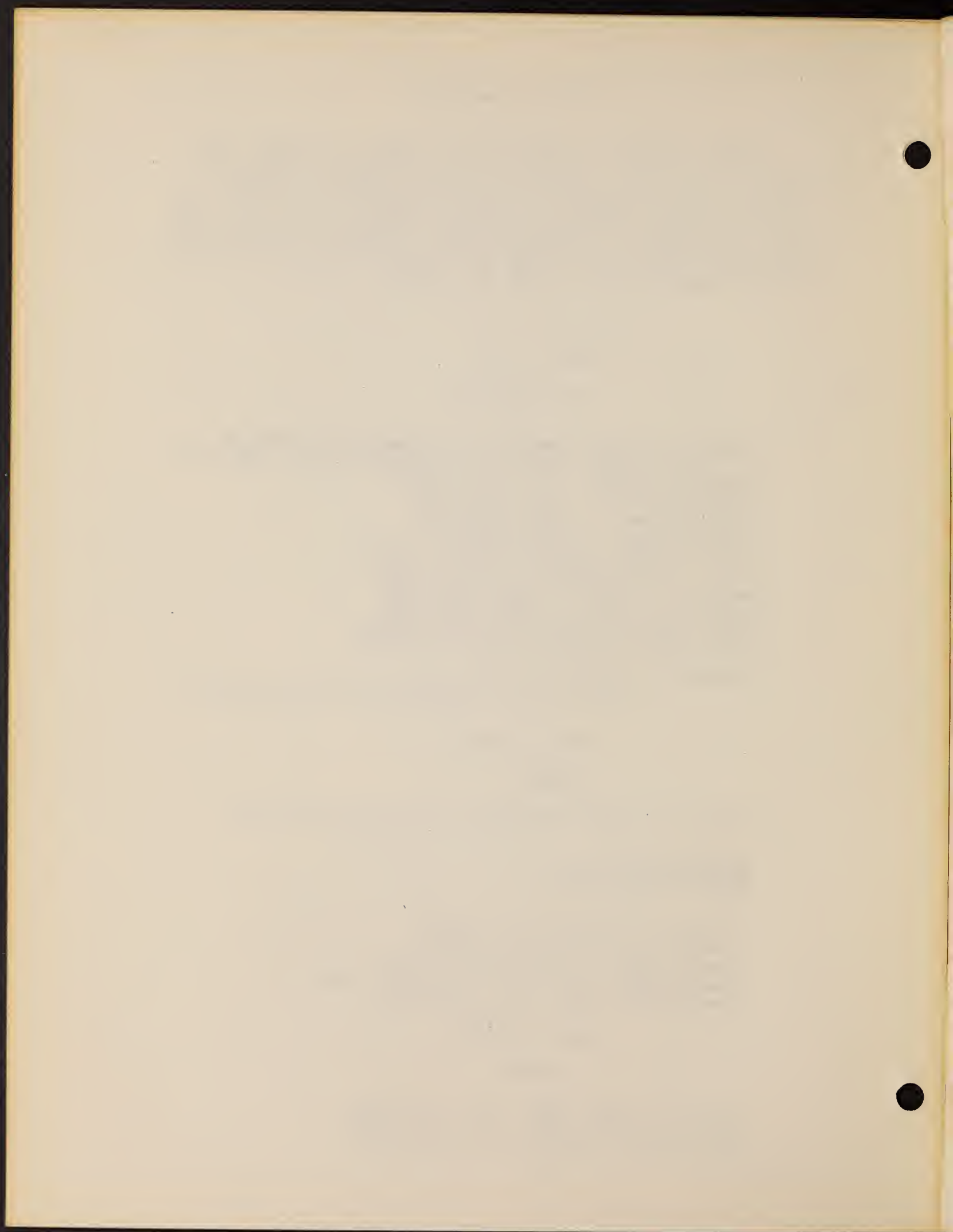
Sarah H. Purdy
 Homer Burton Purdy
 Nat. R. Thompson Jr.

Nathanel R. Thompson died 1902.
 Frank Scribner died Apr. 1930.
 Grandma Purdy (Sarah Melissa) 1917
 Grandpa Purdy (Ralph Wellington) d-1906
 Homer Burton Purdy Jan. 23, 1914.

FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS

Nellie Florence Purdy. Feb. 11-1870.
 Effie Gertrude Purdy. Dec. 11th-1873.
 Homer Burton Purdy. Oct. 31st-1875.



Ralph Purdy Thompson born July 9th-1894
Fairview, Lake Mimetinka
Ralph Purdy Thompson Jr. Dec. 1, 1922

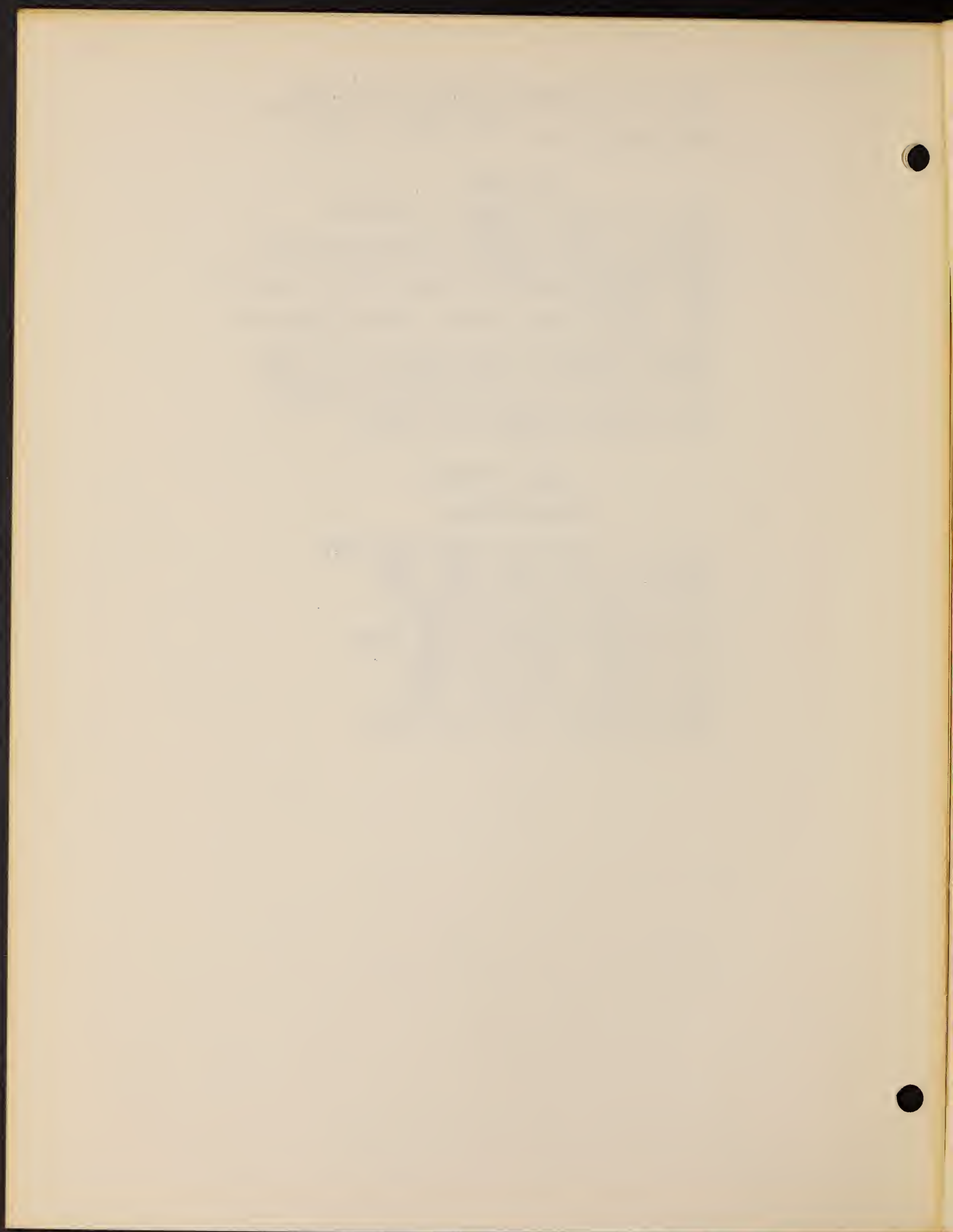
MARRIAGES

Nellie F. Purdy and Nat. R. Thompson
married Oct. 22 - 1890.
Nellie F. Purdy Thompson and Frank Scribner
married May 15 - 1916.
Ralph Purdy Thompson and Rose Anderson married
Sept. 16--1921.
Homer Burton Purdy and Bell Connelly married
June, 1903.
Homer B. Purdy died Jan. 23, 1914 or 1913.
Isabelle Connelly Purdy died Dec. 10, 1942.
Sarah Melissa Palmer and Ralph Wellington
Purdy married January 23rd, 1868.

FAMILY RECORD

MISCELLANEOUS

Homer B. Palmer died April 18th 1847.
Chester L. died Nov. 28th, 1847.
Atwell Palmer. Feb. 12th 1853.
Cornelis died Mar. 11th, 1841.
Sarah Palmer. Dec. 13-1862.
Maria Donaldson April 25th, 1863.
W. L. Palmer Jan 8th, 1885.
Martha Maria Mar. 29 - 1847.
Joseph Leaveus May 23, 1844.
Phebe Leaveus Nov. 24 - 1841.
Lydia Aurelia. Dec. 27th - 1887.



May 10th, 1962

Dear Cousin John,

Your letter has just been received and I am always pleased to hear from you and to know I have been of some help in your being able to locate some of Uncle Charlie's folks in Portland, may you have more success, in following up and obtain the results you deserve. Only wish I could help more. Yes, Nellie was the prize baby and she has been very active all her life and finds it very hard to have to give up the many things she liked to do so. If you are able to come and see me, I will show you some of her handwork. I have quite a bit of it I am keeping. I think she has given up writing letters. Lillian, Burt's girl wrote the last one I had from her, and I do miss her letters, she always was so good about writing.

I am returning the letter you sent and again I hope you may have success in obtaining the desired information. As for letter writing anything I can do to help I will be pleased to do so. This letter you've just received and sent me from Ione Oakes of Toronto, was written 23 years ago. And many things can happen in that length of time.

Thanks for the pictures. I remember seeing the one of your two brothers among the family pictures mother had.

The picture of Aunt Anna Mack is interesting. She must have been quite a painter. Is she another Grandma Moses? Although her pictures are of an entirely different type.

Yours with love, Effie.

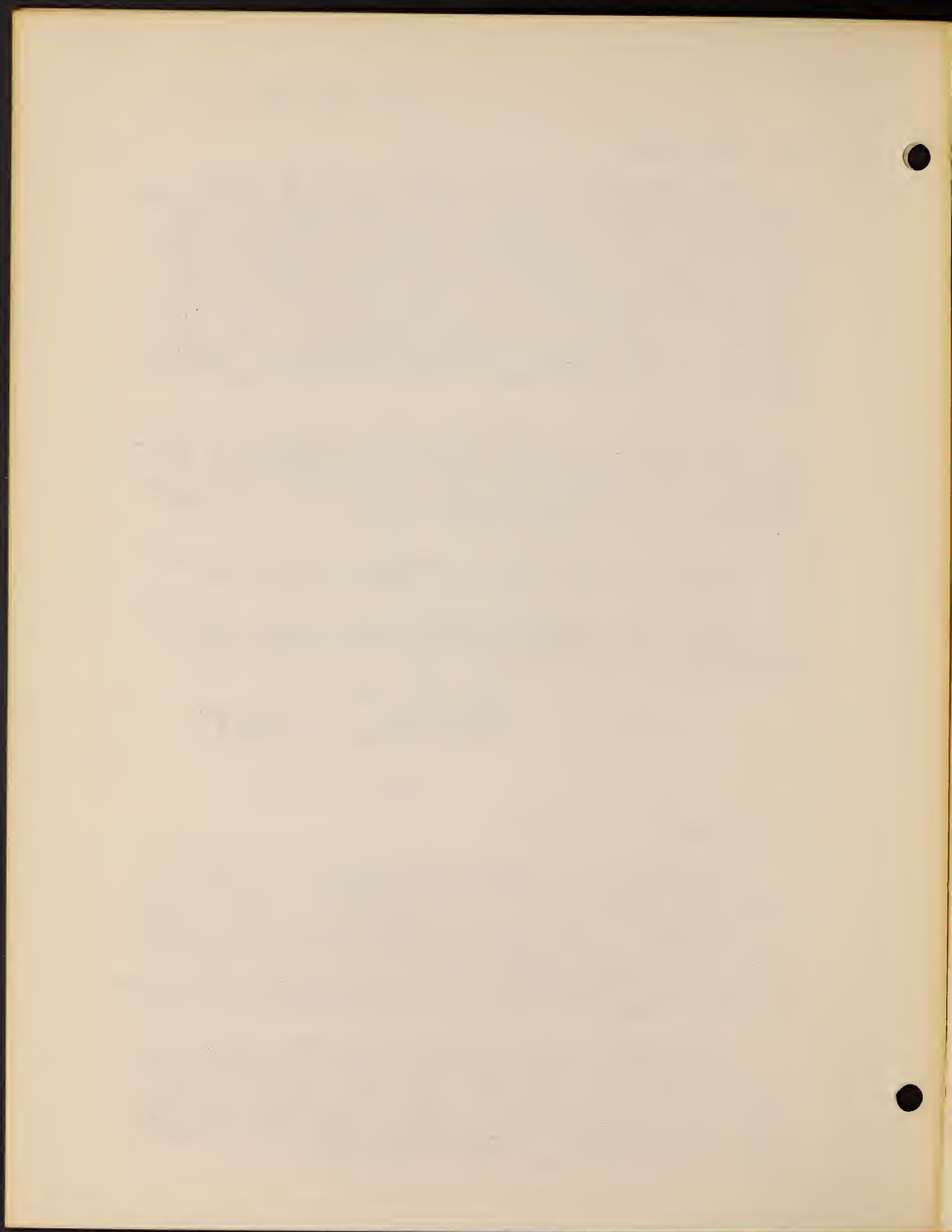
(Effie Purdy, 118 Chapala St.,
Santa Barbara, California)

March 12, 1962

Dear Cousin:

I am sending you some pictures I thought you might be interested in seeing. Thanks for the ones you sent me. I would have liked to have known your daughter, I know she was a fine person and shall pass her picture on to other members of the family. I expect Ralph my great nephew here sometime this summer. That is Ralph, Nellie's son's boy. The father of the two adopted children. But will keep it as long as I am here---I am in good health but one never knows when our time will come. Nellie is 92, pretty well but very poor eyesight.

I hope what I have written will be of some help to you. You see how little I know about our relatives. Outside Aunt Liza's family, they were all so far away. I did not know Lou, Walter and Will had all died. The last letter I had from Walter was in Peterborough. I knew of Uncle Sam's death and Annie Purdy's mother. I visited them after Anna was married. I did not hear any particulars of her death.



Letter to: W. W. Masten
From: Emma Purdy

Sidney, July 10, 1879 73

W. W. Masten
Council Grove, Kansas

Dear Will:

Your letter should have been answered before this but I have dreaded to write because I have something to write which pains me and yet Will I think I ought to write it. Although I would so much rather you had lived here and known what has passed years ago and I would never want to think there was anything connected with my people or me that I had kept back after we were nearer to each other than now (if that is possible) or anything that would make you regret your choice.

Years ago Will when I was a mere child Father owned quite a rich farm which he exchanged for another which turned out to be poorer than he thought. Then he was sick and had to mortgage the place and his sickness and trouble together went to his brain and oh Will how can I tell you not knowing what he did--he took his own life, which would not last a month longer, the doctor said. If he had only realized what he was doing it would never have happened for he had always been a firm Christian and a leader in the church and was honored and well thought of as anyone could be in our society. But oh Will it pains me more than I can tell to know that Father died so.

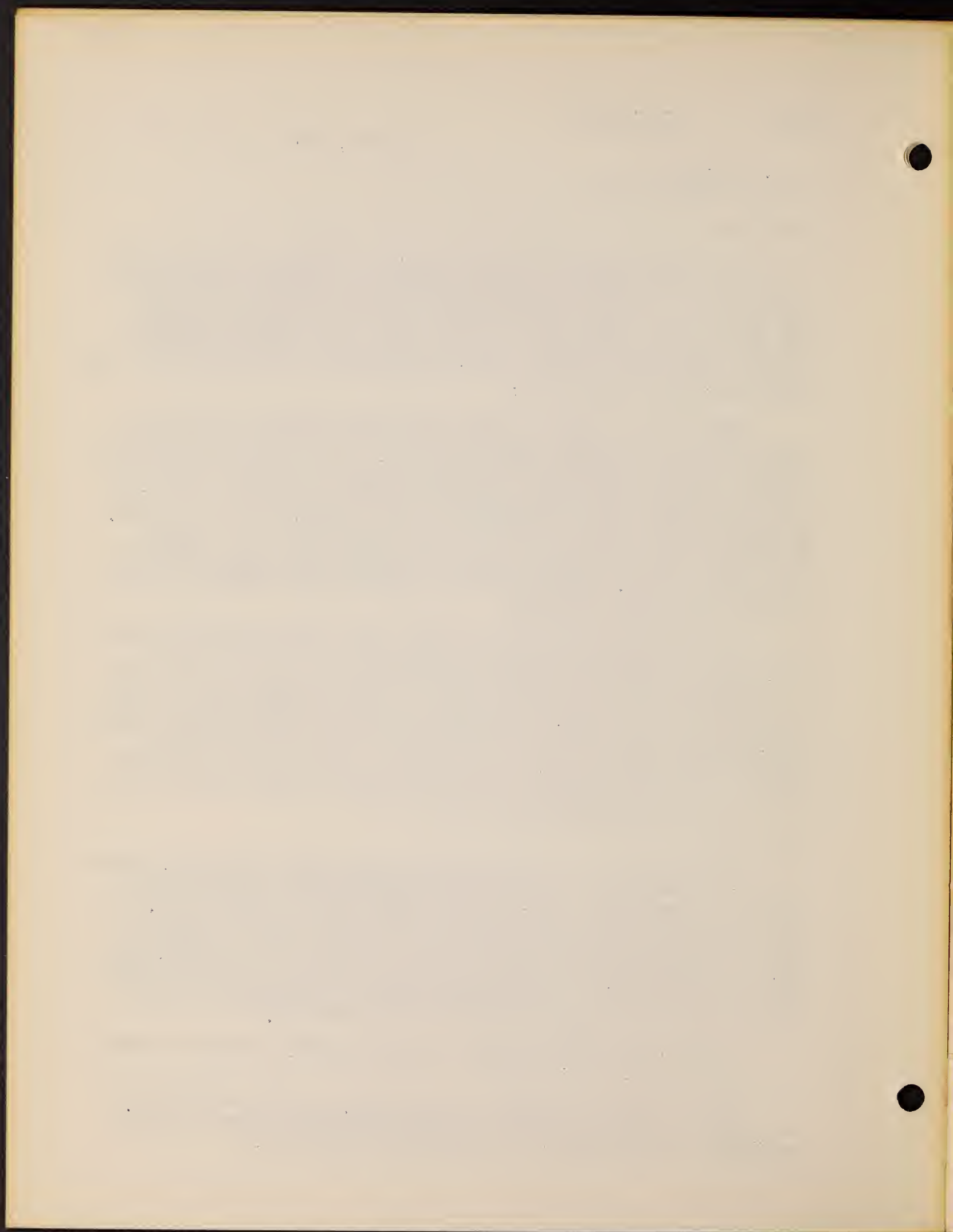
And although Will I cannot think that would make any difference with you for (let me say it) otherwise we hold as good a position in society and are esteemed but some way this all seems so unnecessary to say and yet Will you not knowing anything about us might feel different. I only know writing this makes me feel miserable, if you could only have known it and yet I cannot think it will make you care less for me and if you do not Will I am willing to go anywhere or to do anything for the one I love and loving you as I do surely I could not ask for more than your love in return for that means everything to me.

July 11th

But Willie I thought we were to wait until a year had passed ere we were engaged. Why I thought from the way you wrote you would not have cared if I had said three or four years first, and now you want to take pessimism away (you must be dreaming) and have me lose my freedom. Then Will just fancy what a cross old maid you are choosing (you had better consider it a while longer don't you think so? I don't like this writing about such things one bit and I don't like to give myself up so easily as I have to by writing for fear you will think me trifling.

I don't like what I have scribbled one bit, do you? Please burn this now Will won't you?

Gem is coming to spend a week with me, won't that be nice. She is the dearest girl you ever saw Will and I expect to turn cannibal and eat her up when she comes on Saturday.



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Now Will you would not make fun of my hair one bit. You would say it looked splendid and be trying to fix yours that way but yours is all full of tangle knots and would not lay anyway.

Oh Will indeed I cannot write tonight if you were only here. I would try to be good and do what you wanted me to (even if I am older than you.) Oh by the way Will just fancy my growing old sooner than you and you getting tired of me and all that sort of thing. Now don't you tremble in your shoes when you think of it? (That is if we should be engaged).

I did not have very good luck the last time we were fishing but some gentlemen joined us and caught nine or ten and don't you believe it, they gave them to me and, of course, I could not refuse.

Your last letter came near going to the dead letter office for it over weighed. I wish they could all over weigh. What would you have thought if your question had not been answered some way which it would not have been if I had not received the letter. Remember me to Annie and tell her I was pleased with the card and also would like to be remembered to others of your family for like Annie they must know where your Canadian letters come from. You would laugh to know how Will V. found out whom I was writing to; he saw the postmark was changed from Iowa to Kansas and he wrote to the Falls and asked who had gone to Kansas from there and then he put two and two together and made four, of course. I read all your letters over yesterday and it was a treat but oh Will just think one word from your lips would be dearer than them all.

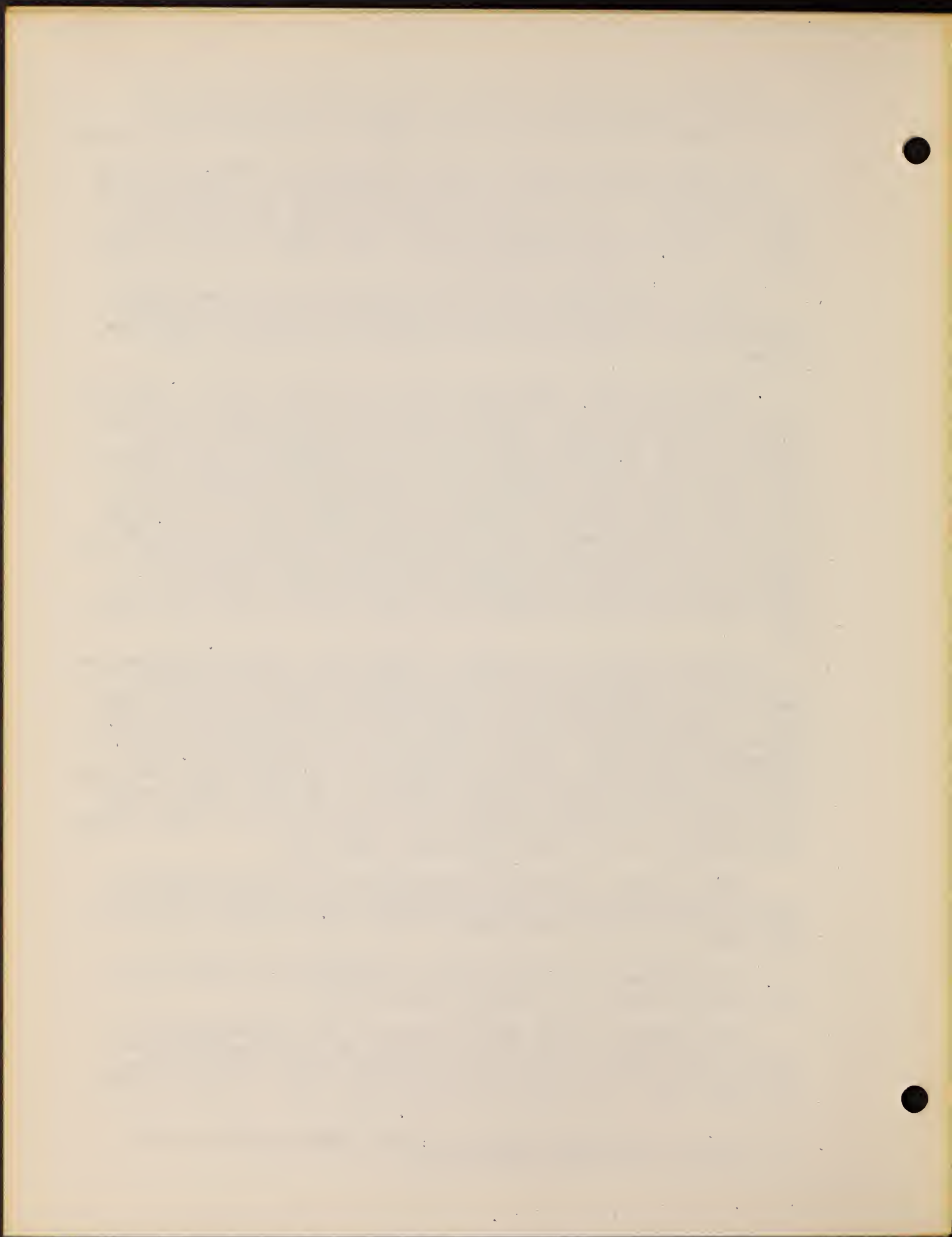
My paper has run out again. I have your photo here before me, your old one and you are scouling at me all the time I write. I am sorry you think Jennie is not altogether happy. Oh how I pity her. I really think it would kill me to have an unkind husband. Oh how hard it must be to be mated with one who does not love and sympathize with one. Surely life must be a burden and yet how wickedly I talk for when hope in this life is dead surely the life to come should make us not feel burdened. How few there are that can cast their trouble on Jesus, we are all so apt to think only of ourselves. It must be nearly one o'clock and I am getting fearfully tired and will have to say good night Will.

There my good night has been short for I have concluded to finish this tonight for I have so much to do tomorrow, you can just guess I am very busy since the girl left but try not to work too hard.

I am ashamed of the way this is scribbled but there is no more paper to copy it on until I go to town.

How interesting the first chapter of the Old Testament is and yet not half as dear as the New one is. I attended prayer meeting last night up here in our country church and there was one other lady. It seems the ladies don't like to attend around here.

Don't you get the chance to attend church as much as you used to, but, of course, you don't.



The night is mother of the day;
 The winter of the spring
 And ever upon old decay
 The greenest mosses cling
 Behind the cloud the starlight lurks;
 Through showers the sunbeams fall;
 For God who loveth all his works,
 Has left his hope with all.

Now I shall scribble a little more and send you a little bouquet containing a moss rose, a pansy (my favorite flower) and some lavender. Pansy means, think of me; lavender, I love you; and moss rose, superior merit. Now I have told you their meaning but I did not say I meant them all.

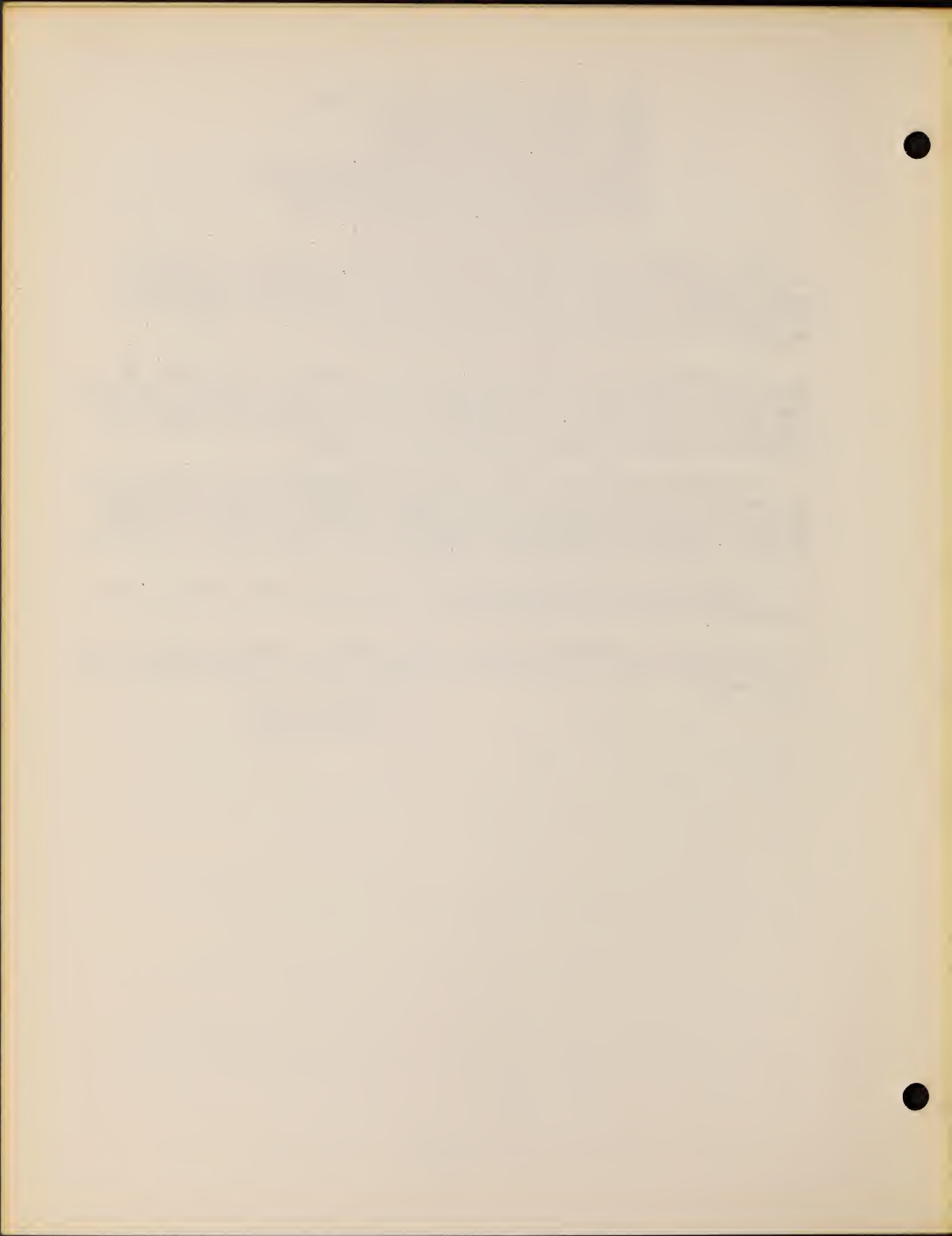
Lew and Mary were here the other day and he still talks of going West but it is laughable to hear him talk. He hates to leave business so bad here. He is forty-four or forty-five years old and with at least seventy thousand and cannot afford to take time scarcely. Fudge on such men don't you say so?

Oh Will dear Will, I pray that God may help us and lead us in his own way all through life and that we may be willing followers of Him who bought us with a price and that He may make us humble, honest, and pure in heart and always kind to each other if He sees fit to spare our lives until we meet.

And so Nina and Frank are with you again; your family is not scattered very much yet are they.

How is your father's health this summer? Better I hope. Now I must really stop writing for I am sure you would scold me if you were here.

Good bye again
 Emma Purdy



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Letter to: William Masten
From: Miss Emma Purdy

Gordon's Hill
October 7, 1879

Willie Masten
Council Grove, Kansas

Dear Will,

I have been so very lonely today that I have been cross and as a reaction I feel like crying, but guess I shall write to you instead; just think I received two letters and two papers from you last week, and oh Will, I have been happy, happier, happiest--ever since, except today and everything has gone wrong. I could not go to church and lots of other things, but Will, not "Father Francia" let me confess I have not been very sweet tempered over it and that is one thing that makes one feel bad, oh dear, I get tired trying to be good sometimes, there doesn't that sound wicked? You know the poet said "With all thy faults I love thee still" and I wonder if you will say that after you are better acquainted with mine.

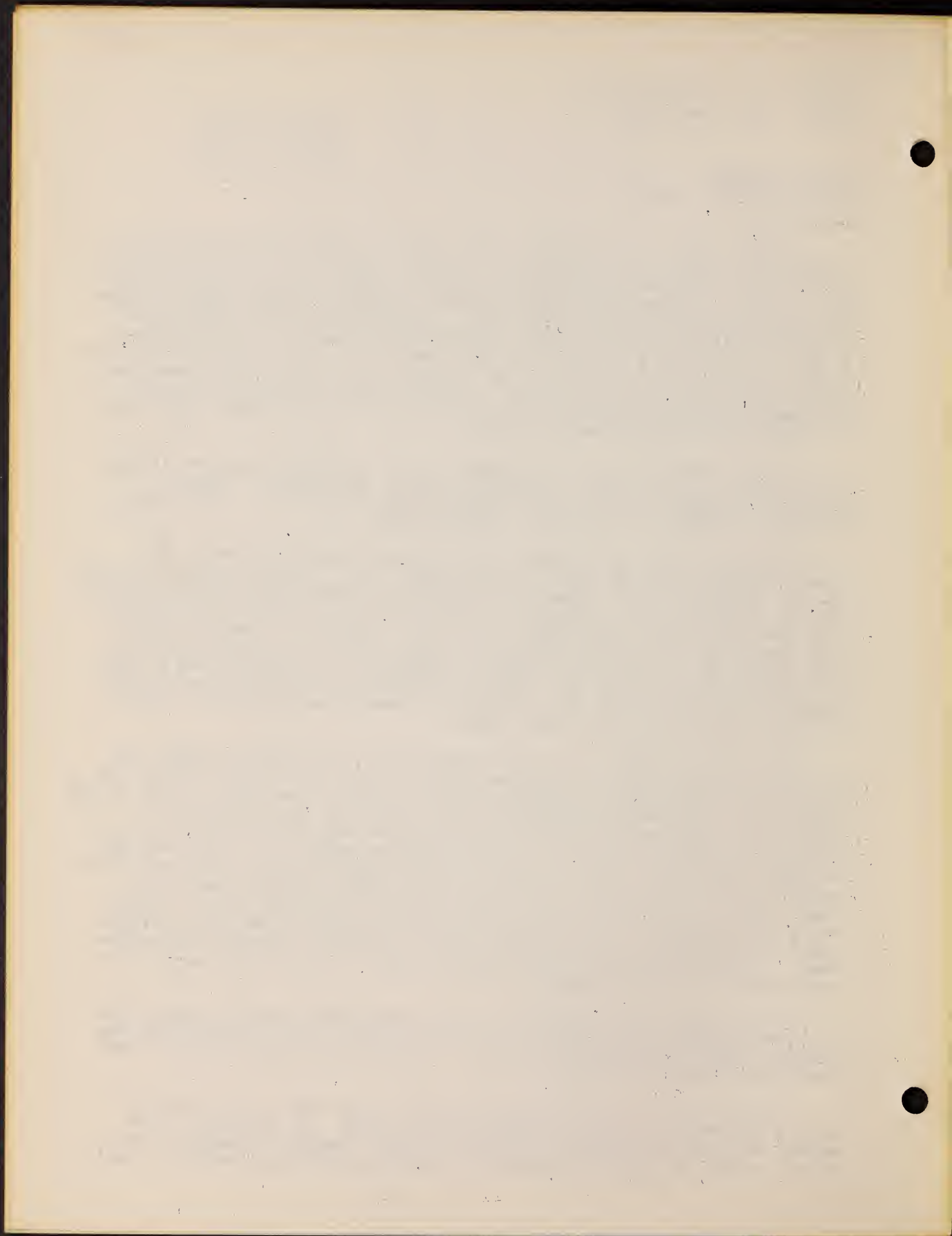
I have just been out to supper, we had preserved grapes, pickled crab apples, tomato sauce, porridge, bread and butter. There I thought I would tell you, (how interesting it must be). Did I tell you our old woman has gone and I am so glad.

Oh Will, Will, if I could only see you tonight and feel the clasp of your hand and know it was really you, I would be happy enough to cry, do you know it seems so strange to me that you should grow so dear to me day by day, when I do not see you, nor have any attentions from you like other girls have but Will I scarcely believe I could care much more if you were here and dear Will, when I write so much that I want to see you, you must not think I am impatient for I will be anything you will me to. Do you know Will it seems to me that if there is one thing more than another to make a mortal happy it must be doing things for those they love.

You said you were not feeling very well, oh Will, you must not get sick when you are so far away where I could do never a thing, oh Willie how near I was forgetting that I could do the best of all things namely pray for you and oh Will if my wish could be granted you would never have even a cloud to darken your way through life but our Father knows what is best. My Will and how grand it is that One who can read our future leads us all the way along when we ourselves turn aside. Believe me Will, I will never let that thought come in my mind again. You told me not to and Willie I tried my best to fancy you a scolding but I could only fancy you smiling. Yes Will, Jennie would be surprised, but I doubt very much her not finding out before then. I am behind in my bible reading also. We get even again by a week from next Sunday anyway.

Yes I will scold fearfully if you lose your rightful sleep when you are working so hard even if it is to write to me, never mind the letters when you cannot find time. I will live on the old ones and find good living there too.

My hair has been all tied up on top of my head and it doesn't feel a bit nice now that I have taken it down. It feels as if it wanted to grow up instead of down. Oh Will change no indeed never! never! never! forgive me thinking of writing anything about it, won't



you? Your letters are never formal, it was only my foolish thoughts. Yes it will be nice to have Frank and Nina go home with you occasionally, I suppose they are very cozy and happy. I would like to see them splendidly. No wonder you feel a little cross when the wind did so much mischief for you.

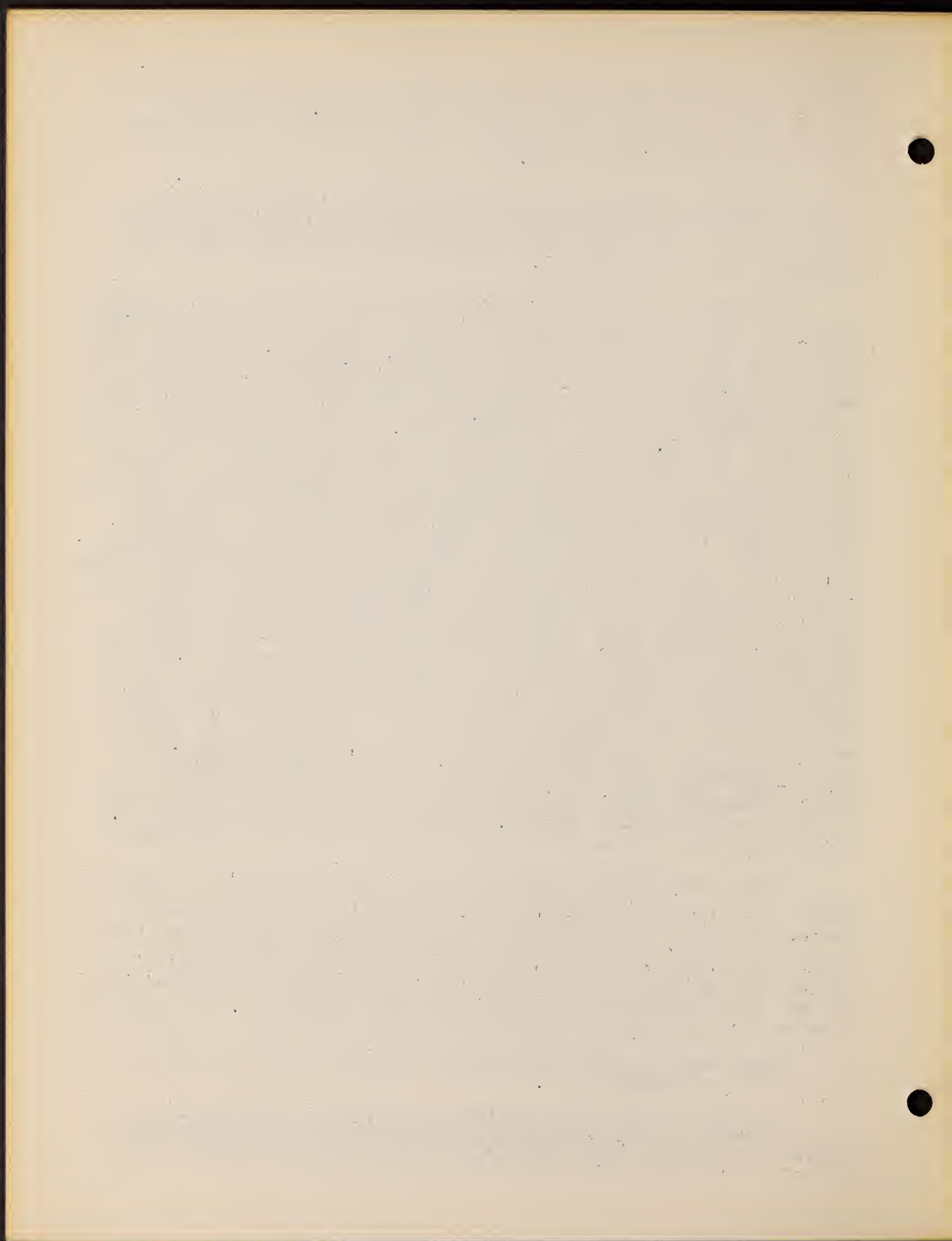
I am glad Willie you do not let the want of means annoy you. Do you remember my once saying in fun "That when poverty came in at the door, love would fly out at the window." Oh Will, I think that sort of love is not worth much, but the right kind would only grow stronger, don't you think so?

The children are making a fearful noise---it sounds like a lunatic asylum. Will I get fearfully tired trying to govern this little band and fear I do not have the patience I ought often. I received a letter from Ralph the other day, he is at Motevideo, Minnesota, he has been ⁷⁴ having all sorts of bad luck, poor Ralph he has lost enough money to make half a dozen families comfortable. Then he has another Mary for a wife although she is more polished, she is always finding fault, what a life to lead Will. Just for instance Will, fancy some sometime in the future you coming in tired from your work and instead of sympathy and smiles, a cross look and a "now Will why did you not do so and so and so on and on or on the other hand, if I had been trying my best to make things comfortable, and you should scold about all the little things imaginable what a picture, beautiful, is it not? Thank God Will I have a firm faith that our home will be free from such things, don't you? And we have that to be thankful for above many other things. Oh Will, my last letter was sent in a hurry and did not have time to copy it, you must be used to my scribbling by this time, I can get my thoughts down so much faster when I scribble. After all Lew's talk he did not go West, he is a queer fellow. So I think they were half ready, he is doing a large business at Trenton now and Drewy is the head of the establishment and oh what airs he does put on. The other evening he started for Brighton and you should have seen the style he put on, one thing was white gloves to dine in, a few nights after when the store was full, Dave Jones, a cousin of mine, and an imp for fun says "Say Drewry are you going to Brighton tomorrow?" Drewy thinking he was in earnest says, "I don't know, perhaps, I shall, why?" Dave says, "Oh, I did not want to know particularly but I have a pair of woolen suits up to the store (he keeps a grocery at Trenton) you may have." Will V. said they all more than laughed, he said it would have made anyone laugh to hear Jones take Drewry off.

I have been reading your papers and I just think there is no paper like it. Read them yourself like a good boy, won't you and mark them. Do not say you haven't time, take time for the forelock as the saying goes. You will never lose anything by taking time to read your papers. Why, Will, you will have me fancying you always in a hurry and by and by you won't have time to say good night Emma! Or hardly look at me, will you? There now that is not a bit fair is it, but you see I fancy you are working too hard and that is not right for many an iron constitution has been broken by over work.

I must say good night and pleasant dreams and a week free from care as it can possibly be.

"For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that all who believe in him might not perish but have everlasting life." How often I repeat that verse to you, Will, you must excuse



me but it is my favorite, or one of them, at least.

Those verses you sent me are good especially the one that says
 "Be ye not weary in well doing." What a long good night!
 I am going to think of our future until I get to sleep.
 Emma

Monday Morning

I suppose you are busy at your work about now. It must be eight o'clock there. Let me see what is it you are at, breaking land, sowing wheat. Oh dear, I cannot guess. I know, the leaves have all turned and are falling off already and it makes the woods look beautiful, all the colors of the rainbow.

I have to write to Dave this morning and so help me I won't push your elbow one bit. I guess I'll invite you to come to meeting with me again, you obey so well. I see someone spinning yarn across the road. I don't know how, nor how to knit either. I guess I'll have to learn to knit some. Will I'm awfully indolent. I wonder what I will find next to write. I would just like to peep over your shoulder sometimes when you are reading my mixed up letters. I bet a whole copper you would say: "Oh dear, why doesn't Emma write sense once in a while."

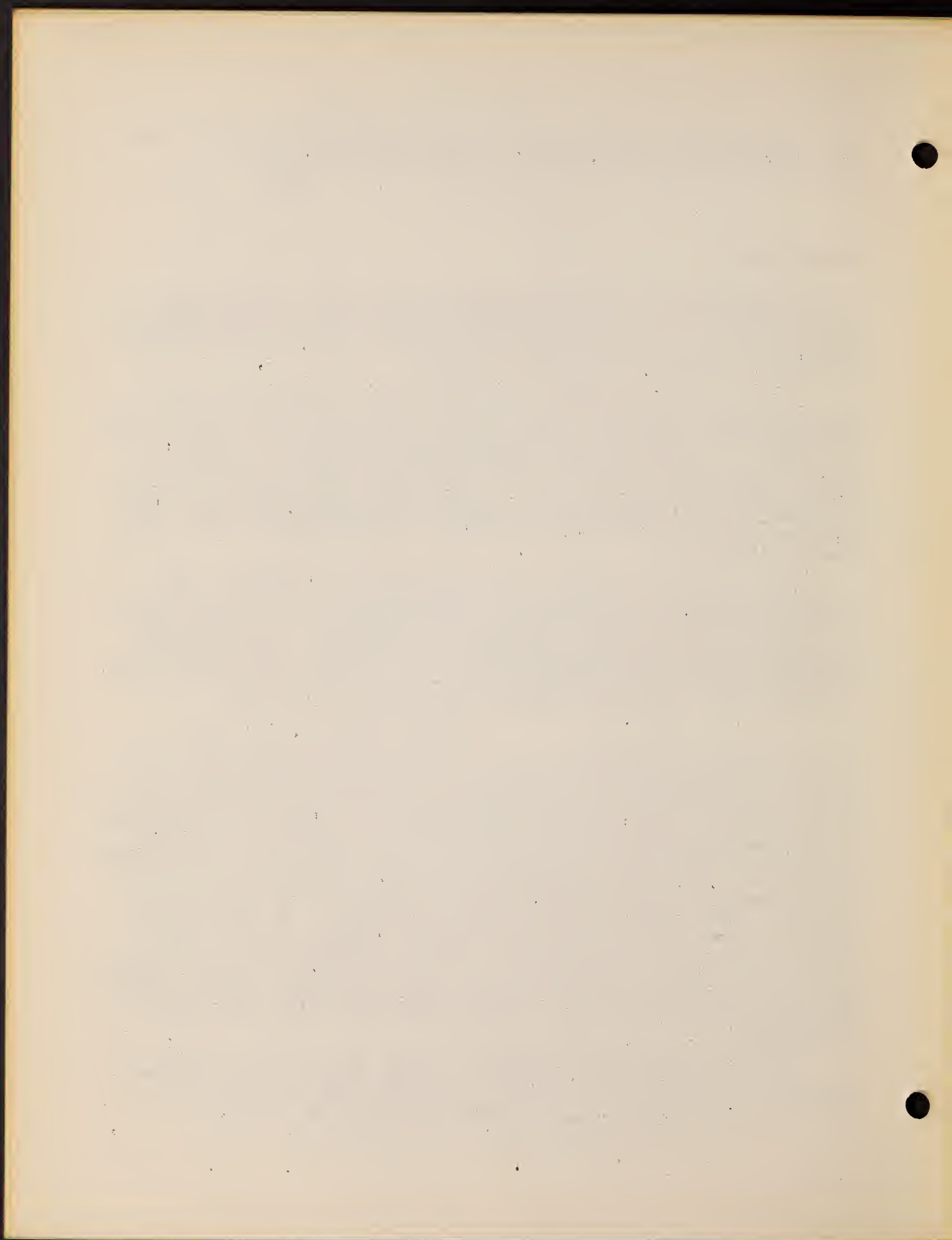
This morning Mr. Hasten, as I was taking my periodical walk around our residence and gazing in astonishment at the magnificent works of nature laid out like some fairy landscape of antiquity before my wondering eyes, I could not forbear to exclaim, "Oh nature thy beauties are sublime!" Then suddenly my enraptured meditations were interrupted by a little urchin yelling at my elbow, "The tatters are burning!" With these few remarks I will take a back seat.

Goodbye Will,

Yours truly, Emma

Notes by JWM: Gordon's Mill is now called Miller's Crossing. It is some 4 or 5 miles north of Trenton. The ranch is located several miles east across the bridge on the top of a ridge and across from the Sickles place. The Sickles are still there. We inquired of them and they remembered a great aunt, Maggie Stickles, about whom my mother wrote as one whom Ridley nearly married. The old ranch home has been burned and rebuilt and the barns torn down. From here my mother and grandmother took care of Ridley's family: Fred, Harry, Lillie and Will after Will lost his first wife Anna Ireland. In 1881 Ridley married Jennie Purdy a double cousin, the daughter of Jacob Purdy, a brother of our grandfather John. Jennie's sister, Millie, was a special friend of my mother Emma. It was Millie who married John Rose and who were the parents of Elva May Rose who married a Hobbs. Elva Mae Hobbs is still living in Toronto. She knows more Purdy history than anyone I know in Canada. Read some of her letters included in this study.

Frank and Nina are my father's brother and his wife. Dave Jones is mentioned as a cousin of Emma's. Dave's sister, Jane Ann Jones, married a Wm. Farley. The Farley family had four children who were well known in Trenton: Hazel, Warden, Mabel and Dr. Frank.



Letter to: Will Masten
 Council Grove, Kansas
 From: Emma Purdy
 Gordon Mills, Canada

July 4, 1880

Dearest Will,

Guess how I am going to celebrate the 4th--well, by writing you! It is two weeks since I have written and now I am going to turn over a new leaf and see if I cannot write every week.

It is nearly three weeks since I have had a letter from you and oh you cannot tell how lonely I feel, if you were only here. You do not know how glad and happy I would be for, oh, dear Will, as the days pass you grow oh so much dearer, that I sometimes almost think I ought not let you grow too dear for fear I might never see you. But that is something I should not think about, should I?

Ridley and I have just lately come from church. We heard a good discourse about Christ's love for sinners. 75

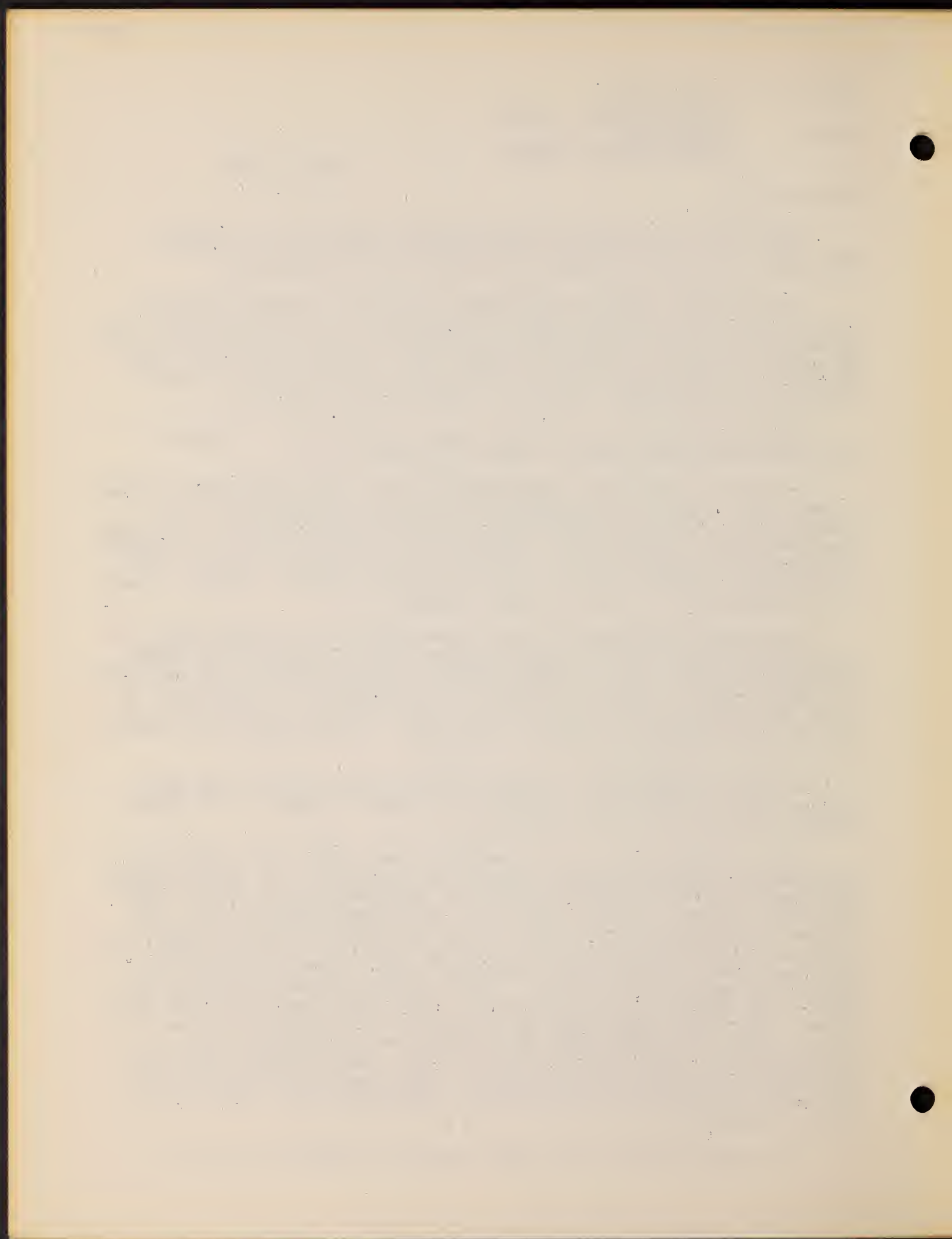
We had our celebration Dominion Day that comes the first of July. I never saw a town so beautifully decorated with evergreens as Trenton was. There were four bands at Trenton and oh Will, the music was just grand. (There was a gentleman who stood behind me in church today and his singing made me think of you.) I had a splendid time at Trenton. Saw ever so many of my Brighton friends. . ahem . . had an introduction to a lot of lonely fellows.

Took Carrie Dorland out for a drive around the grounds which 76 were about a mile from town and laughed until I cried over a flirtation she tried to get up with a splendid looking fireman and then when the fellow came to speak to her she was frightened and wanted me to drive on, which I, of course, did and then kept her in hot water the rest of the afternoon by driving near him. I guess she won't want to flirt with a stranger again for awhile!

I really believe Will Vrooman intends going West in the fall. Why do we get smitten with the Western fever, I wonder. You cannot imagine how I hate to have him go.

Well, I have come to the conclusion that there will never be anything more between Maggie Stickle and Rid, but I do wish he would find someone soon for if I really told the truth I get pretty tired sometimes trying to govern his little flock and mother is too old. I have a cousin that would make him a splendid wife, but there again 77 she is a double cousin and you know that would scarcely be right. I could not talk this way only I know he wants to get married if he could find someone to suit him. This is just a lovely evening for a walk, come Will and go with me and we will have just the nicest old time. And I won't tear your hat to pieces nor anything bad and no, I will not keep you up until two o'clock in the morning. How embarrassed we felt over that, did we not? Mary seemed determined we should not care for each other for some reason, but you know the old saying "the plans of mice and men gang aft a glee" that is go wrong, I suppose.

It is getting dark and I must finish by lamplight, and so I



shall go and sing "Oh Willie, Oh Willie, I miss you" until by and by.

Emma Purdy

My dear Will, there I just wrote that to see how it would look, I guess.

We have had our dinner and I suppose you have had yours. How I would like to see what you are doing. Having a gay old time I do not doubt.

78 Our little Lillie is not well today but I hope it will not amount to anything serious. We have been so very fortunate with the children none of them have been very ill, not even had the measles or any of those complaints--I have become quite attached to them and I expect I will hate to leave them even if I do feel relieved, when I have to. It is quite comical to hear quite a number of persons ask how my children are, etc. and then I call mine. If the children are excited about anything they see, it is Oh Aunt Emma, do look, even before they speak to Rid.

I had a postal card from Sam the other day, he has not been very well for some time. He wanted me to stay out at his place this spring and offered to pay for my music lessons and was quite anxious but I thought my place was here with Mother although I would have liked the music lessons very much. 79

And when I go to Tute's I can hardly get away, it is such a nice place to stay at Tute's. Everything is cozy and Tute is like a second mother. I expect she will be lost when Will goes away. I have just been eating cherries, when will yours be large enough to eat. I love them.

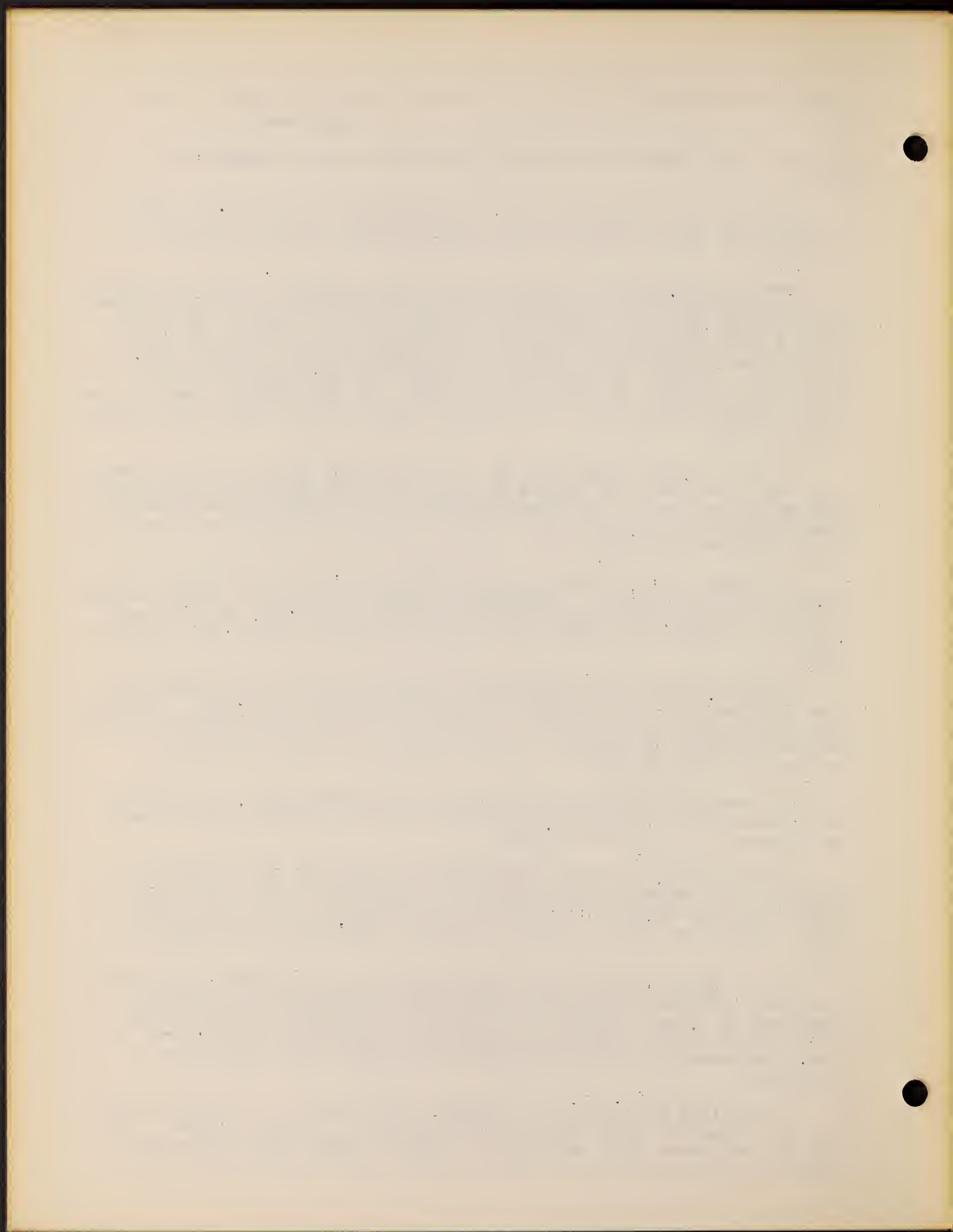
This is Monday the fifth and I suppose you are in the midst of your celebration. How I would like to be with you just now. I wonder are you singing at this minute. Would I not like to be near so as to be a critic and, of course, I would pretend you sang dreadfully whether you did or not.

But really Will, mine, I hope you will have every success and will charm half the girls at the picnic as long as they don't charm my property, it will be alright.

Don't forget to tell me what sort of time you had, I have a headache this morning, come and cure it, oh do; I would not have it, had I not been careless and taken cold yesterday which mother has been scolding me about. Don't I scribble horribly, can you make it out?

It is nearly time for me to get dinner and I am real lazy. Come and get it for me, won't you? The people all around are calling their men to dinner already but they have dinners at eleven and I don't until twelve. They are shingling a barn over at Stickles. It looks dangerous, to be up so high for you know those barns are monsters.

40 Rid helped my cousin, Mr. Farley, raise one and he could scarcely get men enough to help him go up so high out of seventy hands. He had the men there over two days and Rid was there part of one and he said Rid got more work done while he was there than all the rest of



the time. Everybody that has a raising comes after Rid. He likes the fun of choosing sides and racing to see which will get done first.

This is going to be a miserable, poor letter. You will think it little better than none, won't you?

Goodbye dear Will, may our Father's richest blessings abide with you this week and always is my prayer.

Ever your loving Emma

My rose bush has just the prettiest rose on it. The first it has had on since the last I sent to you and this one shall go where that one did.

Oh how I wonder where you are and what you are thinking about just now. Will, it seems so strange that you have grown so very dear to me when such a short time ago you were a stranger and now life would lose its brightness were it not for you. Will dear, Willie Vrooman talks of going west this fall again. I hate to have him go dreadfully for I think ever so much of Will with all of his faults. I suppose it is partly because he makes so much of me. I often think we love those best who act as if they loved us best and I think God has abundantly blessed me with friends, that is whom I know love me.

But oh Will, I often wonder why anyone ever loves us as unselfishly as our dear mothers.

Willie I am away behind in my bible reading, where are you? Tell me are you behind also? I ought not to be and will catch up pretty soon. Oh Willie, dear Will, how much better we will enjoy our bible reading when we can read and talk about it together.

I am getting tired and sleepy. I wonder Will, will we have another nice talk in our dreams tonight, after all, how little we know about our future. Yes Willie, all we can do is to trust Jesus with our futures and He will surely give us what is best for us. I am often afraid I don't trust Him enough.

Everything is just looking grand now, all nature is alive with beauty and our trees are more than full of the dear little words.

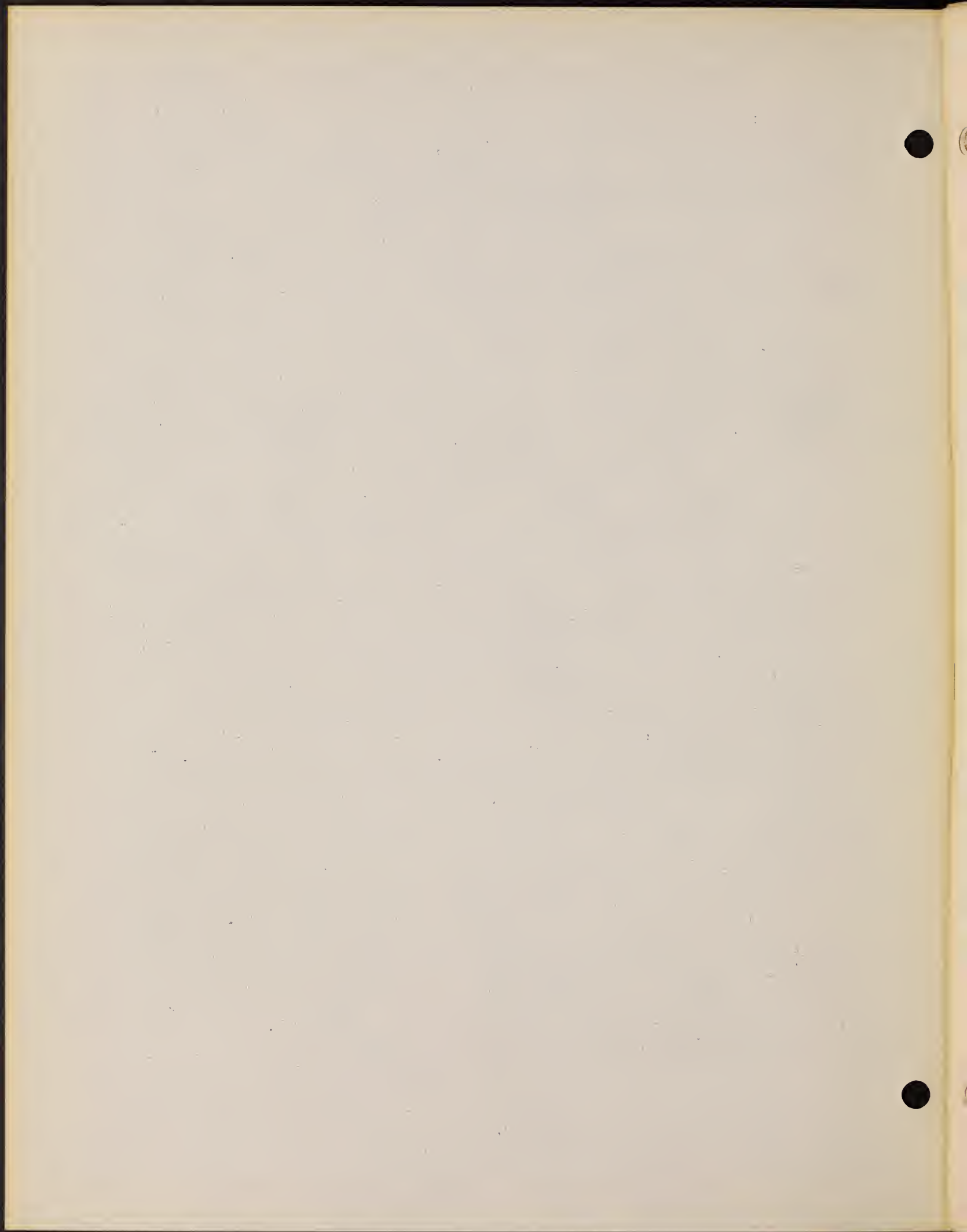
I had quite a time a week ago tonight. (Now you need not feel flattered.) I have quite a habit of having someone's photograph with me all the time, oh, not quite, only sometimes on Sunday, and, of course, I began to soil it and so I got a small frame for it. Last Sunday I could not find it when I looked for it at night and I looked all over, even outdoors, as I thought I had had it in the window and just as I had come to the conclusion I would have to confess my carelessness to someone and beg for another, Mother found it and laughed at me. She said she had a lot to tell Will when she saw him. I said I would tell him first but she thought I dared not.

How do your horses act lately, any better? Is it not queer when I don't hear from you for two weeks it seems like a year. Write soon Willie please. Excuse scribbling won't you Will?

Goodbye dear Will

May our Savior shield you from all sin. Ever your loving

Emma (true until death)



Letter from: Emma Purdy
Gordon's Mills
May 2, 1880

to: W. W. Masten
Council Grove, Kansas

My dear Will,

Oh! Willie I have been very neglectful about writing. I wish I might ask you to pardon me, the way I would like to. Oh Will, guess who is in the other room in bed, as it is after nine, come guess! Well I know you cannot, it is no one else than Charlie.¹ You can just³ fancy how surprised I was when I came from Sam's² and stopped at Lew's to have Mary⁴ tell me Charlie had been there and had just started with their horse and buggy after me, and I came about fifteen minutes after. We were all very glad to see him and scarcely any one knew him. He came to Chicago after a stock of dry goods and thought being he was half way home he might as well come the rest of the way. He has taken in a partner. He returns home Tuesday evening. He came a week ago Saturday. It seems a very, very short visit to me. Charlie being around makes me think you might be somewhere near also. If you only were dear Will, how happy one person would be. Oh well, Willie, the future will make us happy. Yes, thrice glad after the waiting.

Charlie tried to tease me some about you, but I don't think he suspects we are engaged and I thought it just as well he did not know. Yes, Willie Vrooman⁵ has been quite ill lately with congestion of the lungs but is better now and was out here today and a couple of cousins were also here. We had quite a time teasing each other and they almost made me color teasing me about writing to you.

The fun was when I was at Trenton⁶ sometime ago. I directed some papers to you and forgot them at Tule's⁶ and Will got hold of them and he tells me I sold myself thin but I don't care one bit, why should I?

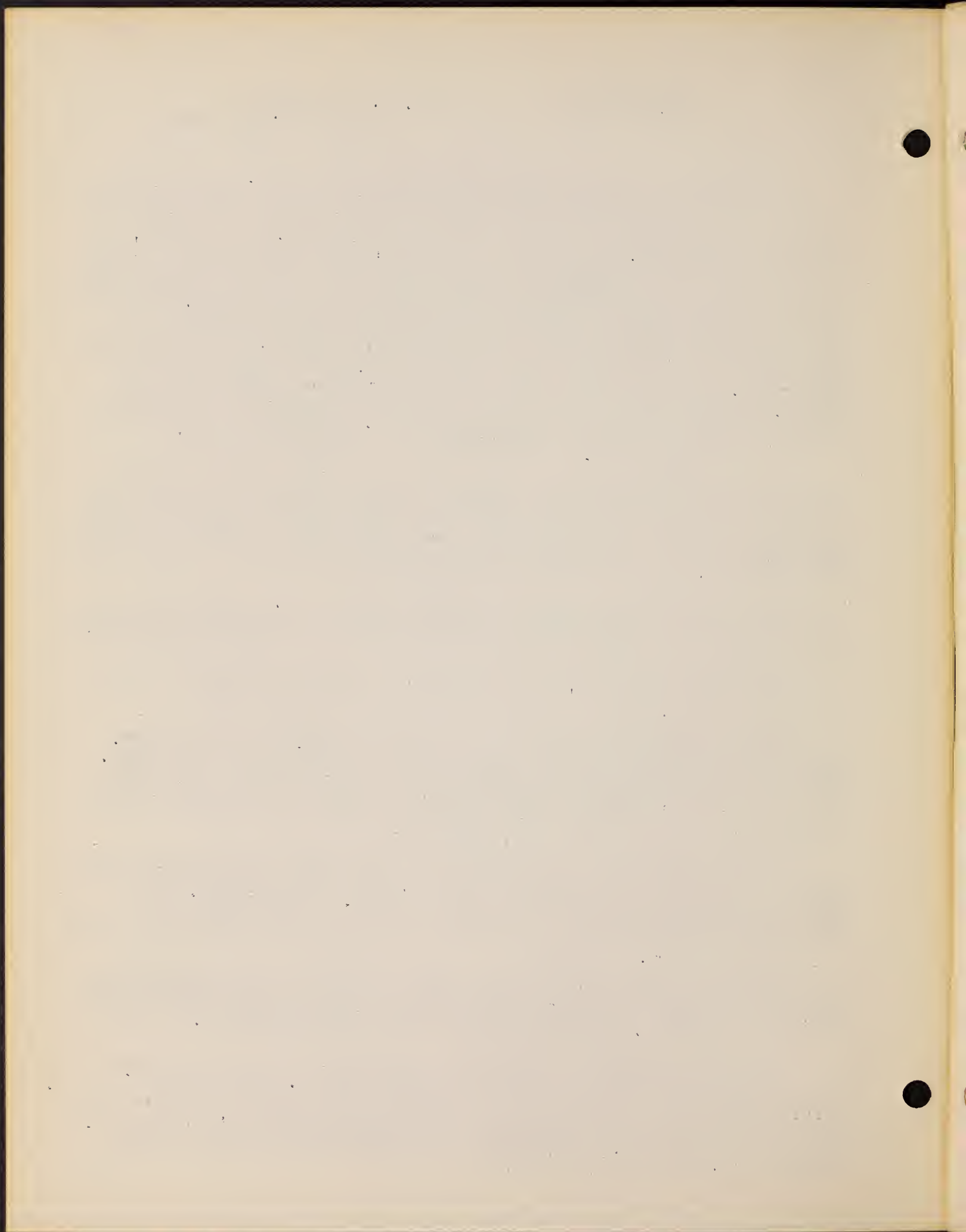
Well, Willie you won't be apt to have company now when you come. I am sorry but we will be happy all the same, will we not?

Charlie received a letter from Mary⁷ in which she said she had received a letter from you for him. I hate to have him go so soon. What a nice old time we would have were you only here, my dear Will. Why Will you don't intend eating all that fruit do you? Yes, indeed it will be just splendid to have plenty of fruit and if Mary P- comes we will give her some cherries, won't we?

Charlie says that young Wilford who is so very attentive to Lizzie Elliott is a sort of a worthless fellow. He puts on considerable style but there it ends rather a poor ending, I should say. I am real glad you are going to have help this summer for I think you should not work too hard.

Now Will if you are going to bother me when you have me sitting near you, I will just make you stay away off on the other side of the room all the time. I hope you are all over the measles before this. You must be careful and not take cold while you have them.

Your mother had a bad fall, did she not--I hope she is all over it. I would like to see her and the others also. Edith and Mr. Steveson will be floating down the stream of time together before long. (Edith later married Will Hanley. She is still living, over 100 years old.) Willie's sister Minnie is eleven years old this spring. (Minnie later married Ed Oakes)



6

I ought to write a letter to Duellins tonight, but I am too tired. I would not write at all only he would feel hurt if I did not after promising.

I saw Tulia again when at Brighton. She is studying too hard and it tells on her health. She is a general favorite among the pupils. Oh how I wish she lived nearer me.

The frogs have begun their charming music once more, of course, it is delightful. They have a new and choice selection this spring.

Our girl has gone again. This time her mother came after her or sent after her because she was not well enough to do her work alone. I scarcely know whether I can do without one. I'm half afraid I cannot. I did not attend church today. I hate to stay away but we had company and I couldn't go.

How I should like to take a look in and see what you are doing just now.

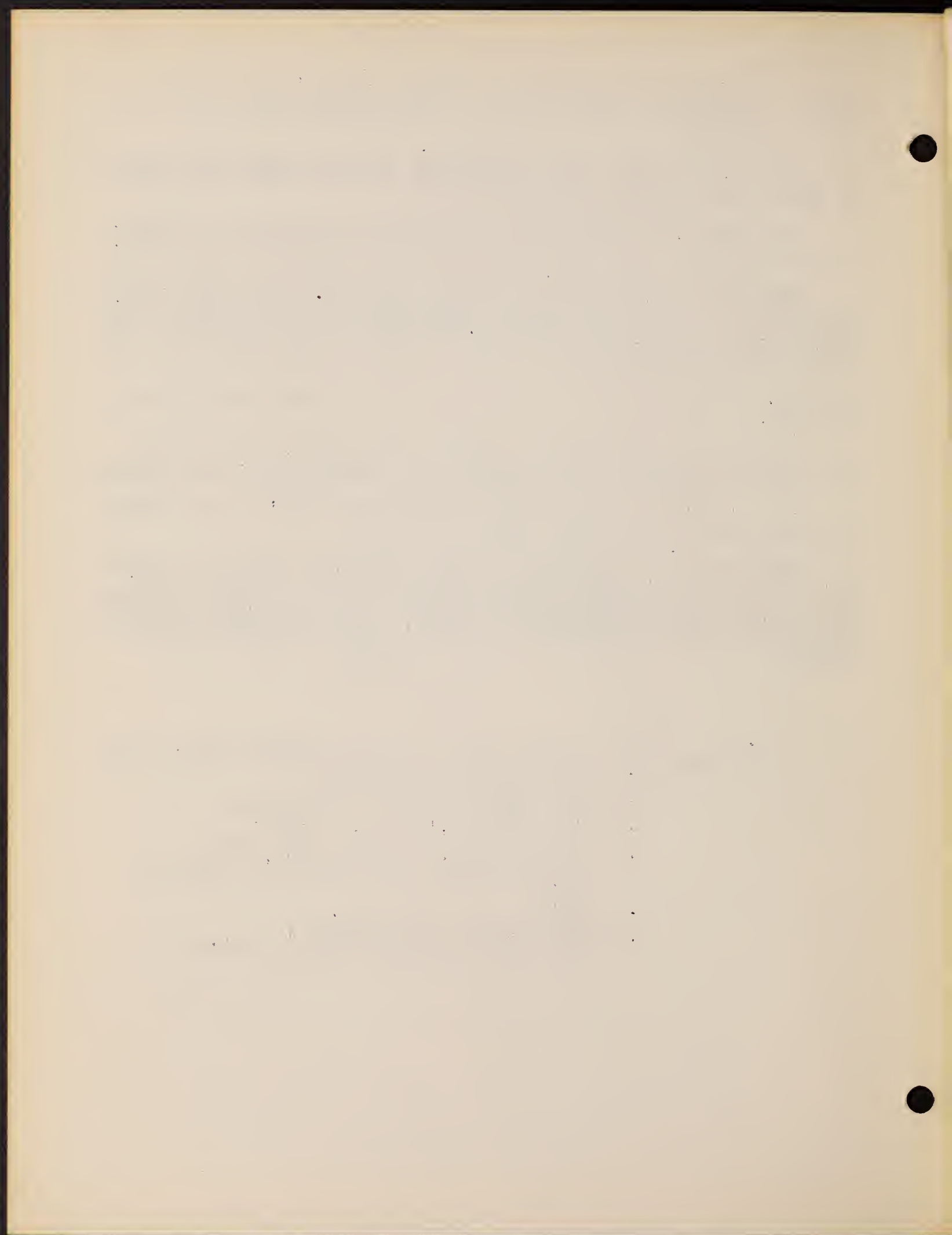
And so Miss Coffin (what a name) is very sweet on you is she, she was very liberal to give herself away without asking, was she not?

As I am getting near the end of these two sheets, I will close this time and try and write better in my next.

Dearest Will, I hope you will have a pleasant summer not marked with sickness or bad health and that you will have pleasant dreams. Yes, Will I think pleasant dreams must be nice but I cannot say many of mine are that way unless it is those I dream while awake. May our Father ever bless and keep you, dear Will, is the prayer of your loving

Emma

- Ed. note:
1. Charley Purdy, brother from Iowa Falls, Iowa.
 2. Sam: brother at Castleton
 3. Lev: brother Lewis A. of Brighton
 4. Mary: Lewis A.'s wife, Mary Eliza
 5. Willie Vrooman, son of Maturia, sister of Emma.
 6. Tule's short for Maturia.
 7. This Mary is brother Charlie's wife.



Letter to W.W. Masten
From Miss Emma Purdy

Castleton
April 10, 1880

W. W. Masten
Cottonwood Falls, Kansas

My dear Will,

Accept my best wishes for your happiness this new year of your life. Were I there you could have more wishes but whether they would be blows or twenty-six something else to celebrate this your birthday I will leave it for you to guess!

I have been thinking of you more than usual today, dear Will, by and by Will when your birthday comes, I wonder will I not try to make it a little happier than the other days.

It has been over two weeks since I have heard from you and I am looking for a letter with both eyes and all my heart.

It is raining and looks dismal and dark outside. Sam is sitting here reading in the bible. Will, he has no idea to whom I am writing. I expect he will look up pretty soon and ask and I will answer "to a friend" and there it will end very likely.

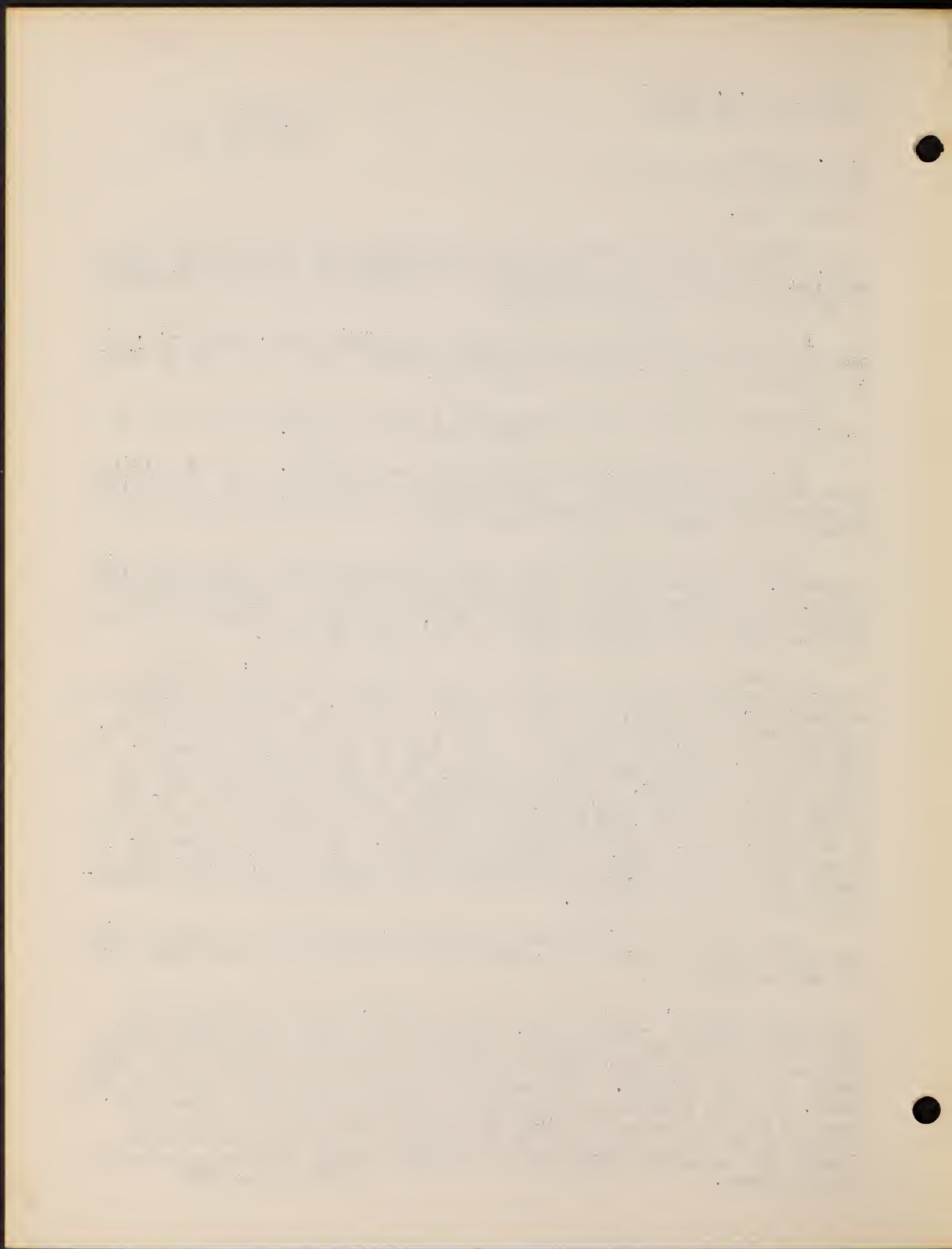
I have heard their minister here but cannot say I think him very talented. Sam and I had a long conversation about the scriptures last night, he has about come to the conclusion that the only way to be happy in this life and the life to come, is to be a follower of Christ. Help me pray, Will, that he will act on those thoughts.

I have another pale bottle of ink here, Lewis (Sam's eldest) ^{8/} carried the other off. Sam thinks that a person can improve themselves so very much by study, reading at home. When they have not had the advantages of education in their youth, he had very little education, and yet you would be surprised to see how he has improved himself. But the fun of it is he has some histories he is very anxious for me to read and every night, his first question is--have you ready any more today--until I hate to say no, but I have so much else to do the few weeks I stay that I find it hard to read much, although I love the one I am now reading, namely a history of India. It is just splendid. I never had any idea India was such a densely populated country, and it makes one a little prouder of England than usual to think her possessions are so very extensive.

Will, I think I will love my adopted country (or at least it will be mine someday, I guess) sometime but I do not think I will ever love my native land less.

Oh Willie how I do wish for you tonight; it does seem so long sometimes before I can see you. You must not think I am impatient, dear Will, it is only because I love you so dearly that makes me hate to have you so far away, but the bright hopes of the future will fully repay all our waiting. I am going to send you just this one sheet this time. How are your class and prayer meetings prospering, dear Will, I pray to God to abundantly bless and help in your work for Him and always to be with you in joy or in trouble. I would like to write longer but am afraid they will be surprised at my sitting up so late as they have.

Ever yours, Emma



163
Letter to: W.W. Hasten from Emma Purdy
Cottonwood Falls, Kansas

Brighton
March 3, 1880

Dear Willie,

Oh I am so lonely today. It has been over two weeks since I have had a kind message from a certain loved one and it has been two weeks since I have written, you'll forgive me, will you not? Will, while I am visiting I have been so irregular in writing.

Rid came to Smithfield and had a letter in his pocket for me, but I did not see him, consequently I am minus a letter from a certain Yankee. I wonder was it really from him.

I am having a real pleasant time here at Brighton. I arrived last Thursday.

They are having protracted meetings here and doing oh so much good. I find they have increased my faith and love and made me more determined than ever to seek after more love toward God. Dear Willie my thoughts are of you so constantly lately that I am sure yours must be of me and if they are, we are near in feelings if not in person. Although I find my longing sometimes to see you almost amounts to pain.

The girls scarcely give me time to think, for I am here and there and all over and I do not get done talking day times and have to spend my nights at it. I actually expect my jaws will begin to ache before long. Saturday, I saw one of my old school boys, Duellins Dulmage, who is teaching a large school with an assistant some distance from here, he is very lively and was quite a juvenile among us.

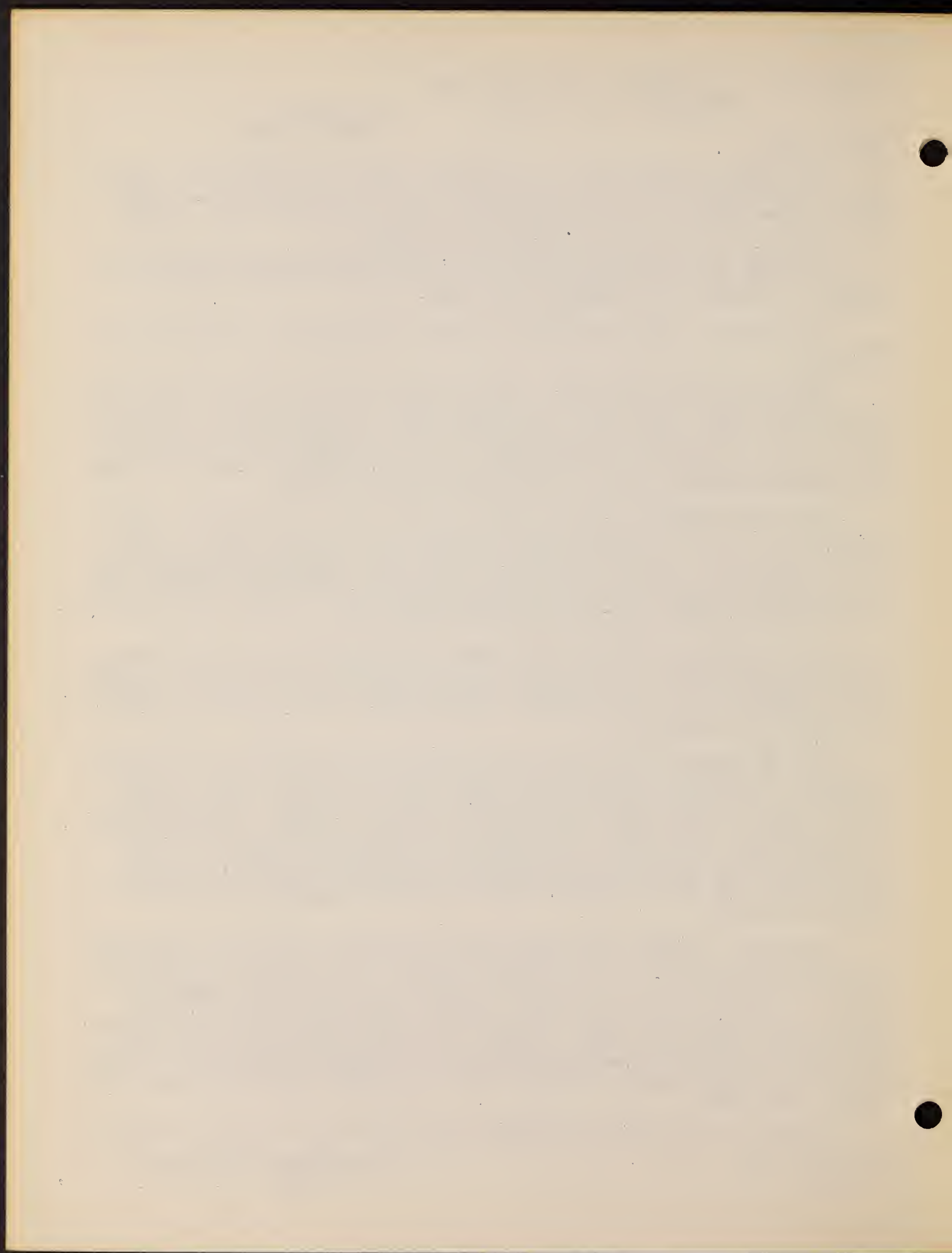
We had quite a talk about old times, he said he was lonely among strangers and wanted to know if I would correspond with him, he is seven years younger than I am and he has always seemed like a brother. Willie do you care if I do as he wishes? For I would not like to do anything you would not approve of.

I am at Lewis's, at present in my room which by the way is elegant, rich lace and damask curtains with heavy gill-cornices, marble topped furniture, tapestry, carpeting and other things to match. He has been getting ever so many new things since I was here before. Everything is very beautiful, of course, but Will all his lovely things I would not exchange places with him, for he does not possess the richest of all rich things "the gift of eternal life". I fear he never will and it makes me unhappy when I think of him storing up treasures on earth instead of heaven.

Jim Kempt, another old school mate called here to see me Sunday but as luck would have it I was not home, and you may be sure I was glad for we never liked him. He is so very conceited. It puts one almost in misery to listen to him. Oh dear, I wish I had that letter of yours that I know must be at home. I was down to the old school house yesterday and had a nice time but I missed so many old faces that it almost gave me the blues. I expect Rid after me the last of this week. I want to attend prayer meeting at three o'clock so please excuse my short letter this time.

Goodbye now dear Will, you don't know what happy thoughts I have of you sometimes.

Ever yours until death,
Emma



164
Letter to: W. W. Hasten
Diamond Springs, Kansas
from: Emma Purdy
Murray Hills (Canada)

January 24, 1881 72

My dear Will,

I am out among the Murray Hills at Mr. Dorland's, Carrie's home. I expect to stay a week and thereby miss getting a letter from you for a while and I am afraid miss getting this in the post office.

We are having fearful cold weather here and plenty of snow. It is so cold in this room and we will say that is the reason I am scribbling so.

I received a letter from Charlie in answer to one I wrote telling of our coming there, "He said he would not have liked it at all had we gone to Dave's and that he would invite them down; they are very anxious for me to come two or three weeks before and stay but that will be impossible for I cannot get away from here before the first of March anyway. He also wrote something about our having Mr. Milner and your writing to him but I think if you conclude to get him it can be done after we both get there. Don't you think so? He is at Gama City wherever that is.

Now Will you must promise not to tease me because Charlie will do all that to perfection. I try to make myself believe I am going to see you in six or seven weeks but I find it impossible to do so, and it is the same old story all the time, I find I want to see you more than I ever did.

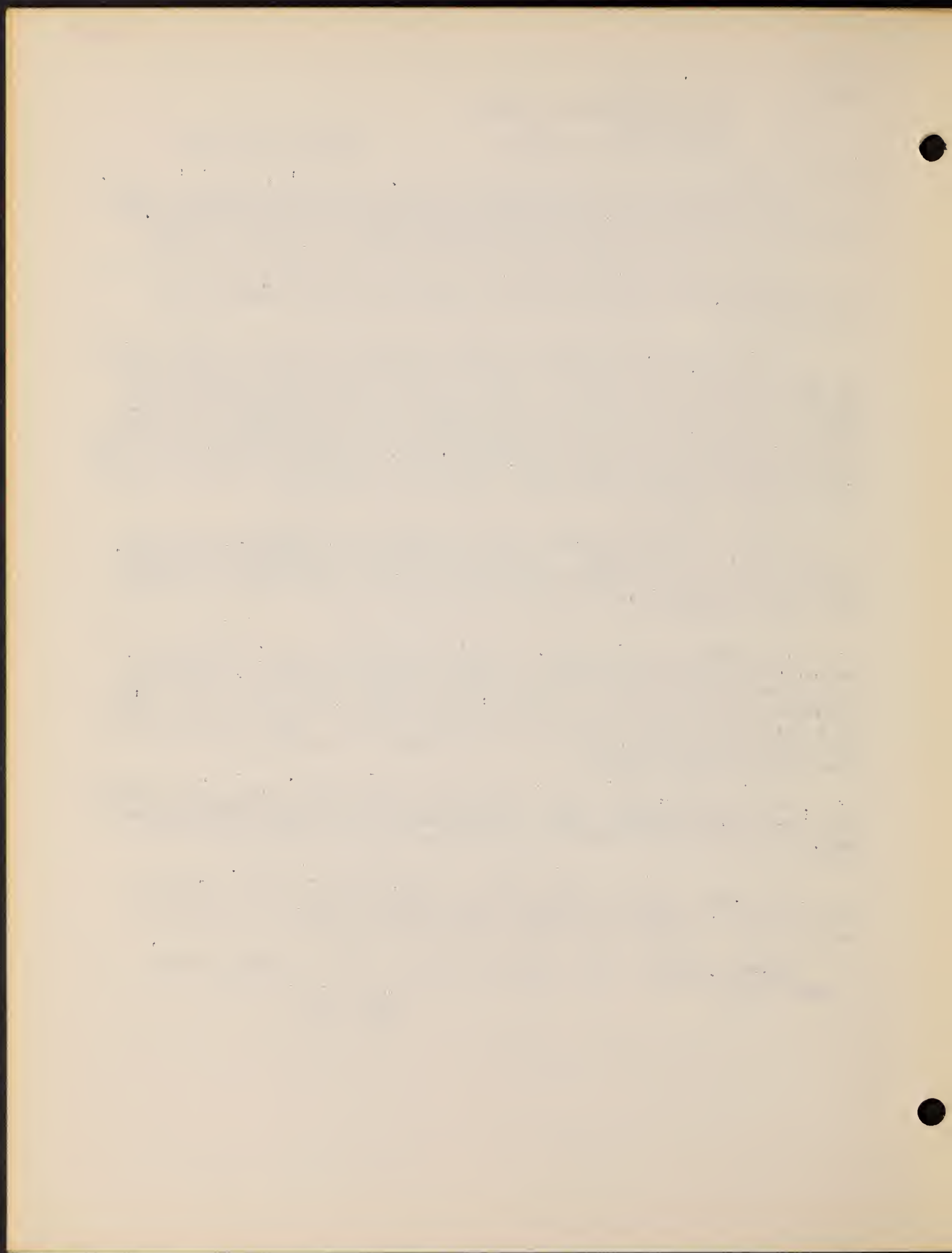
I am making a print dress and Julia Dorland is stitching on the machine for me while I write. I will send you a piece. What sort of a dress do you think it would make to get married in? You know I gave my old stripped one to Mary and I guess she has it in a quilt or I might get that being you don't like black. Well, I guess I'll stop writing nonsense and tell you I have a headache and a bad cold, come and cure the former.

We are going over to Mr. Jones this afternoon, some more cousins, Will, and quite wealthy ones. I have never been there since he was married before and I hate to go but they would be offended did I not.

Oh fudge! but all this must be interesting to you. Do you know, Will, it seems as though I can scarcely think of anything to write since I know we will see each other so soon.

Goodbye dearest Will with my love and ever so many kisses,
I must close.

Emma Purdy



165
Letter to: Mr. W. W. Masten
Diamond Springs
Morris Co., Kansas

Brighton 83
February 19, 1881

W. W. Masten

Dearest Will,

We are at Brighton today and at Castleton tomorrow I expect; I wrote half a letter to you and left it at Tura's and now I have some paper from Mary and will write tonight so you will get one more letter (or an excuse for one) before I see you. My paper is unruled and I expect you will see uneven writing. Oh Will I scarcely know what to write. I am going to see you soon and then we will talk it all over, will we not? I have not received your last Sunday letter yet but think it will await me at Trenton. I went home with Rid yesterday and brought mother up to Trenton today. I went over to Dr. Days for dinner and then Cousin Millie and I took our pony (Rid's) and came to Brighton. Tomorrow we go to see Tulia and from there to Sams at Castleton and then to a cousins and then back to Rid's and then to Trenton by Wednesday morning.

They are more than half provoked at me, all of them because I don't make longer visits---they say going so far and not coming to make one a good visit---but some way time has seemed to go so fast and I could not spend it visiting very much. Oh, Will, can it really be possible we will be together two weeks from tonight? How nice it will be to have you meet me at Charlie's. I am thinking now of starting the first of March on the evening train if nothing more than I know of happens. James (V.) has sold his home and than means West I hope.

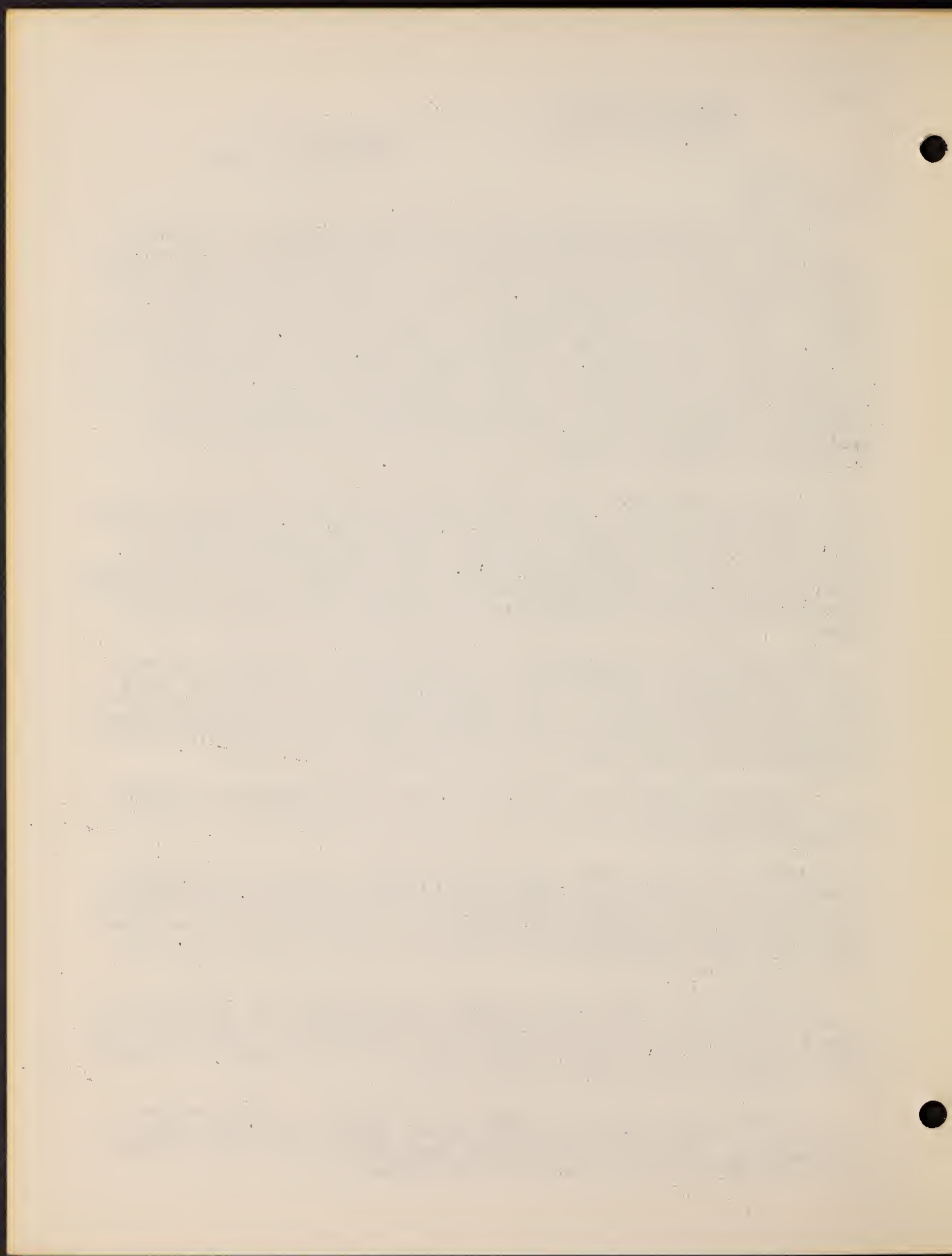
Oh mercy such scribbling for my last letter. Carry it in your pocket until I see you and then I can light my cigar with it, can I not! Will, dearest Will, I am so glad I am going to see you so soon and yet dear Will, I will be sad over parting with my loved ones here, but I trust I'll see them again sometime, just wait until Will and I can afford it, we will take a trip to Canada, will we not?

I meant to send you a piece of my dress (the dress) but forgot it. I wonder if you will like it. I have joked so much--I meant to be serious for once.

Mother had a rag carpet made for me and I got it home from the weavers and it is just too pretty for anything. Will, I am thinking of sending my carpeting and bedding and a few other things by freight. If I do though I am afraid they will go so slow we will not get them before we leave Charlie's but if they do not come, Charlie can send them on for us, can he not?

Oh Will, how I wish you were here to come with me. There is a gentleman friend of mine going tomorrow to Iowa but I am not and then Dave's wife's aunt is visiting here from the West but I heard she will not be returning the time I wish to go. But it will only be a little while and then I'll be there, will I not?

Oh how I wish I had your last letter tonight. I will retire now as it is after eleven at night and we have a long drive ahead of us tomorrow. You should see the way they huddled me up for driving, you would almost take me for your grandmother.



With love and ever so many kisses (your last ones) I say good night, dear Will.

I will have to close in a hurry after all Will for I expect the hostler will have our horse here before I am ready. So good bye my own dear Will until I see you and then will we not be happy?

Ever & ever your loving

Mifs Emma Purdy

Emma

P.S. Could get nothing but a yellow envelope. If it is a sign of jealousy--I'm not jealous!

Letter to: Emma Purdy
Trenton, Ontario
from: Mary Purdy (Sam's wife) 84
Castleton

Feb. 21, 1881

Dear Sister,

I received your letter on Saturday. Was looking for the stage to bring your own dear self out but as you could not come, I was very much pleased to get your letter. I am sorry it has been so, that I am to be cheated out of a good long visit from you.

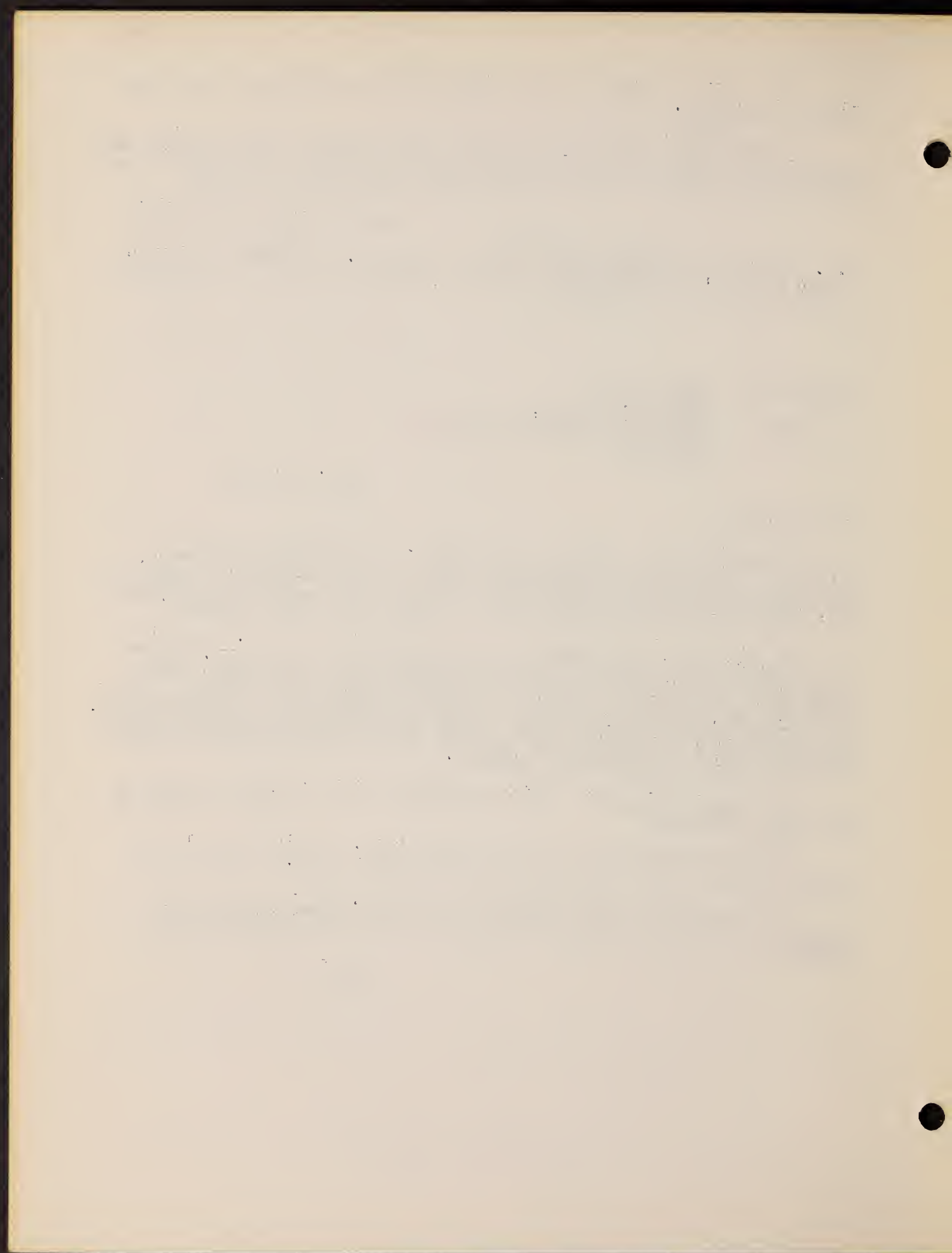
As it is Em I fear that I am not going to see you. The time is so short and it will be impossible for us to come down. Sam came home on Saturday evening and is gone again this morning. He said for me to tell you that he would be at Colborne on Monday next and if you could possibly come out he would meet you there. If not, we will excuse you for to see you only to say good-bye could only make the pain of separation greater.

Now dear sister as I write the tears fill my eyes in spite of all that I can do.

Hoping to hear from you in a day or so. I close and if you cannot come, I will write you again before you go.

I am very sorry that Turia is not well. Love to all and excuse all that is wrong or wanting for I have written this in haste.

Mary



Letter to: Emma Purdy
Port Madison, Washington

Aug. 7, 1864

Dear Sister Emma,

I received your very welcome letter some time ago but kept putting off writing until I nearly forgot it! Well, Emma, I would like to see you very much. I suppose I will scarcely know you when I come home for you have grown so much these last 3 years.

I am very glad you are going to school and hope you learn fast. I was very much pleased with the Canadian flowers you sent me. Emma I want you to write to me often and long. (letters) Give my love to all our folks and accept same yourself.

Love to Emma Purdy

Samuel L. Purdy 85

Letter to Ralph Purdy

Dear brother Ralph,

Well, Ralph, it has been a long time since I have written to you. It is not because I have not wanted to or because I am to lazy; but really important news is very scarce with me. You see by Dave's letter he will not be very likely to make much this year. I suppose you have heard about the gold fields in Vancouver. I do not go a cent on it. Gold is not as plentiful as people at home think.

Times are getting dull out here. Yet I can do better than I have done. I do not think of staying here long, I cannot tell yet for sure, I think I can do better.

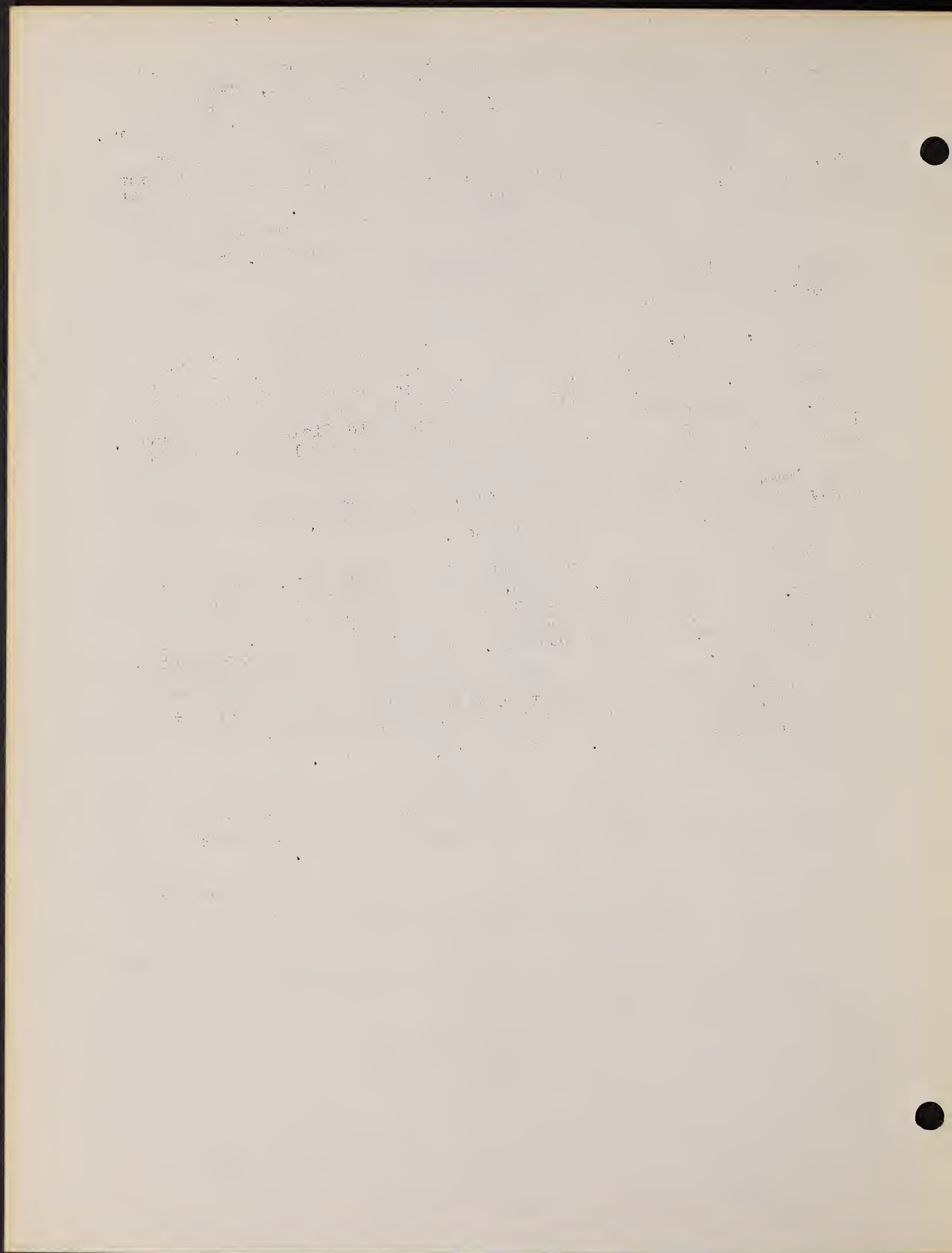
I will send you the last letter I got from Dave. There may be something interesting. Ralph, you do not know how lonely I am tonight. I am never very well content, and since I have been here on this coast I have not seen one single happy day. I wish I could be as contented as Dave is. He is always satisfied wherever he may be.

I fear if I come home next year to go to school I will get dissatisfied and come back to this miserable hole again.

Write often and long. Love to all, Samuel L. Purdy

(These letters written by Sam tell of his trip out to the gold country. He writes to my mother who was about 11. Sam was 22 years old then. Ralph was an older brother than Sam.)

(Later Dave went to Mason City, Iowa where he lived for many years becoming a merchant there and at Spencer, Iowa.)



Mill Island
March 3rd, 1878

Letter to Miss Emma Purdy
From Haturia (Tura) Vrooman

(Written to Trenton)

Very Dear Sister,

We are all well and hoping this will find you all the same. I begin to feel anxious about you and mama's coming to Canada. I do hope you will have a safe passage. You must write and tell me what time you are coming and if Ridley and Anna are coming when you do. You must not make any particular engagement about going back to Mason City, for perhaps, when you get here you will like it better than you think for I will be happy to have you come and stay with us as long as you can content yourself. Mill Island

I expect you will think we live in a very lonely place after living in a city, it will be lonely living in a country place. I am anxious to hear from David and Ida and the children and from Ridley and Anna and the children.

Will you please ask Ridley if he has the note for Willie's sheep, we want to try and get them this spring.

Mr. Doreland has got home from California and he and Abbagane were here for tea on Thursday last. John Abbott and Amanda and Lewis and Mary and the children, and Ralph and Sarah, were all here to dinner two weeks yesterday. Tell Ma I see some of the Sidney folks once in a while. Old Mrs. Johnson came to see me. She was anxious to hear from Ma. You must excuse all mistakes for Minnie bothers me, she gets lonely and then comes to bother me. Say I must tell you she is a good girl sometimes when I am washing. She says you must come and see her, she says so much I cannot think of half. Please give my love to all and accept the same you own dear self.

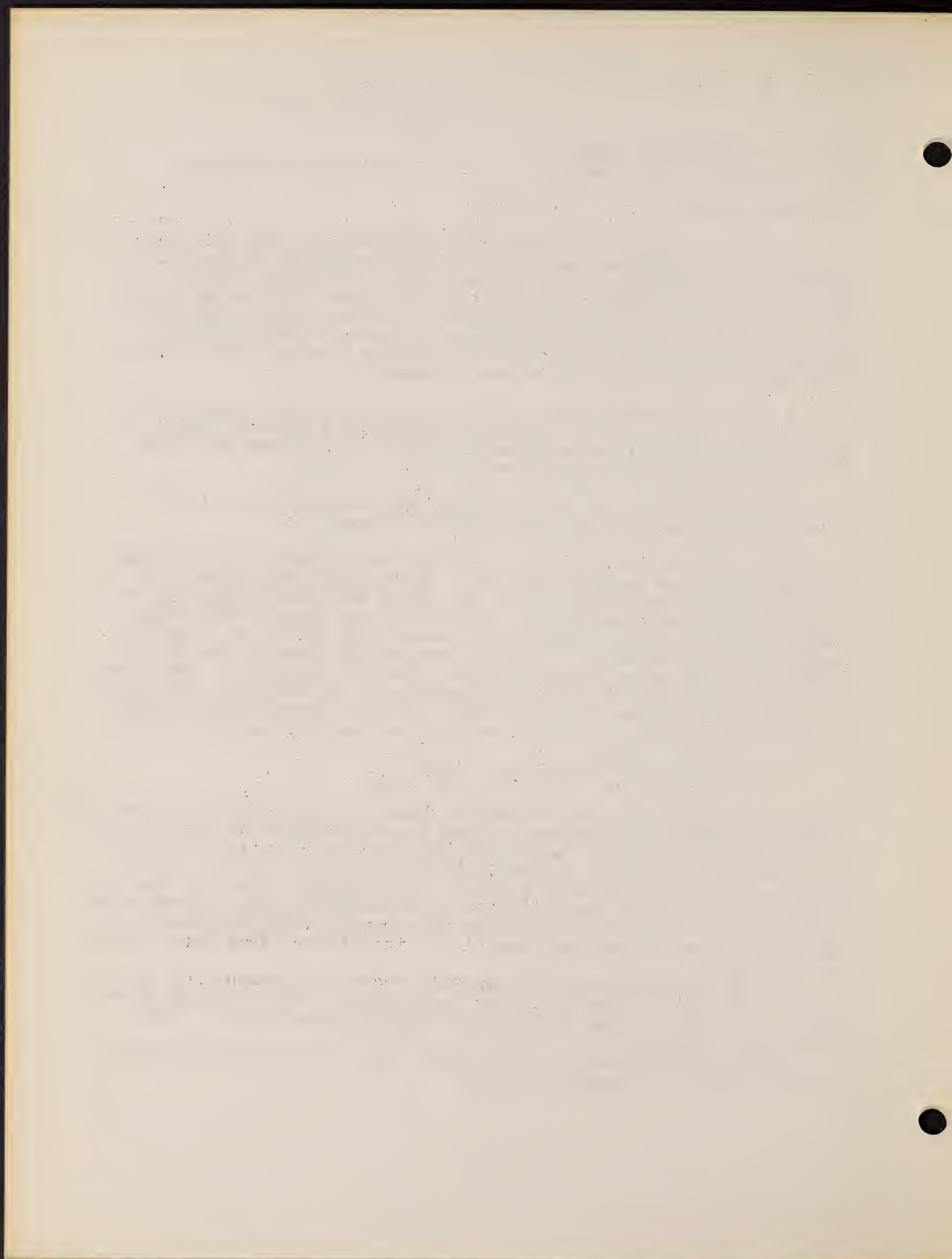
I will write to Charlie next time.

Tura

(This letter is valuable because it fixes the name of Mr. Dorland's wife as Abbagane. Elsewhere we have heard this name as being one of the daughters of Ruliff Purdy. So Abbagane was a first cousin of Tura and Emma. We have learned that Abbagane had a sister named Tobitha who married Gilbert Jones. Their daughter Jane Ann was the mother of the Farley family. John Abbott married Amanda Purdy also called Mary. Mary was a sister of John Purdy and Ruliff Purdy and so was an aunt of Tura and Emma. When John Abbott died Mary married an Ellerback. 86

Ralph and Sarah refer to another brother of Emma and Tura, one of the six sons of John Purdy and Anna Fretz. Ralph married Sarah Palmer, a sister of Sam Purdy's wife Eliza Palmer Purdy. (Sam is another brother).

(Cousin Effie Purdy's letters tell much about Ralph and Sarah because Effie is a daughter. JWM)



Letter to:

Mrs. John Purdy
Mason City, Iowa
U.S.A.
(In care of L.J. Purdy, Grocer)

Campbellford
Dec. 19, 1882

87

Very Dear Mother

Another year is nearly gone and yet we are spared. We are all well as usual and we feel very thankful for God's goodness to us. I was so pleased to hear you were as well as you are and able to be around. I do so hope Emma will get strong and well. How I would love to see her and all of you. I do hope Willie is well by this time. I am so pleased Emma has so kind a husband. My Willie got home all safe. He took us by surprise. He would have gone down to see you all but he heard you all had the fever and he did not and he was a little afraid, he was sorry when he got home that he did not go. He would like to have seen you all so much. We were glad to have him home again. They are all well at Sammy's. We had an invitation down there for Christmas but we think we will stay home. They are having a serious time at Lew's. Frank is laid up with a sprained ankle and Mary was poorly the last time we heard from there. Lily Palmer is home on a visit. I have not seen her yet. Willie and Minnie was down at Ridley's. Minnie says Auntie has the dearest baby. They were all well and happy as possible. Lilly was there helping when they had no girl. The children were all well and looked nice. They were at Mrs. Dorland's. She said she would like to hear from you. The girls are not any of them married. They are as jolly as ever.

Willie and Minnie would like to come and see you and so would James and myself.

Dear Mother, You must please excuse this scribbled and disconnected letter and writing. Often I wish I could send you and Emma some of our Christmas toys. James has a very nice stock of groceries and is doing a very good business. Willie and James have just come up out of the shop and we are all setting around the table and stove writing and talking and now I will close.

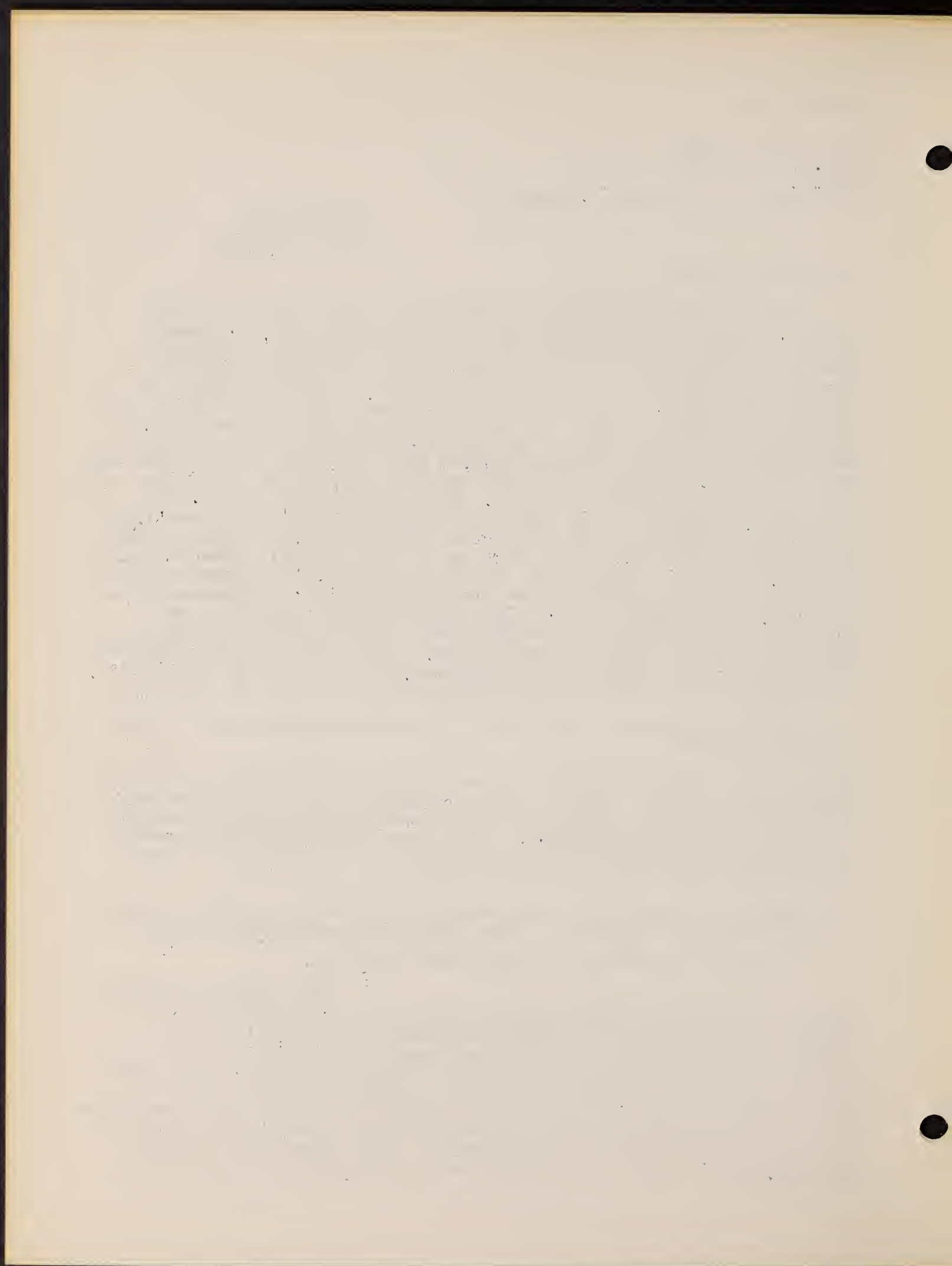
They all are sending love to Willie and Emma and they all send love and kisses to grandma. James joins in sending love to you.

I remain as ever your affectionate daughter.

Tury

(Mrs. Naturia Vrooman)

Note by JWM: This letter mentions Willie who is the son of Tura. It mentions the Christmas celebration at Sammy's which would be in Castleton. It mentions Leves, who is Lewis A. Purdy of Brighton and the son Frank. It mentions Lilly Palmer who is a sister of the Palmer sisters who married Ralph and Sam. It also mentions Ridley's young child of his second wife Jenny and likewise, Millie, who is Jenny's sister and who is the mother of Elva Mae Hobbs who you have heard much about. Once again the Dorlands are mentioned. The Dorland girls are cousins named Flora, Julia and Carrie.



Letter to: Charles B. Purdy
Portland, Oregon

170
Rockford
November 19, 1916

Dear Brother Charlie and family:

I'm going to try and write you a few lines to let you know I got your letter and was so very glad to hear from you. The past year and a half have been very hard on me. I'm surprised you did not get word of George's death, I sent you two papers. I sent one to Hubbard, Washington and for fear you would not get it or that Hubbard was in Oregon, I sent one to that address and wrote to the first address.

He passed away April 24 at the hospital in Mason City. He was very much in debt, had been building and stocking up his little farms. He was not able to work and had to have everything done. Harold was in Agricultural School at Ames, I was going to put him through a two years course. George was elected representative for his district and had been in DeMoines three months, was sick just two or three days before the close and came home and died in less than two weeks. He was taken to the hospital for operation but they could not operate, had a specialist from Chicago. I moved down here in the fall and have been here for over a year. I have Hattie and two little boys age 11 and 7 with me this winter. Harold tried to run the farm but could not make enough to pay debts and live, has given up and gone to work for a stock farmer for the winter @ 40 dollars per month and all expenses. They will have to let the farm go I guess. They will probably not save over 1,500 or less than \$2,000. Marie is teaching and gets \$70.00 per month. They will help their mother. Harold was 21 last of October. He is a very good capable boy and Marie is a successful teacher.

I am practically keeping the family but when Harold and Marie get started it will be easier for me. Hattie seems very helpless but has her hands full with the boys. They are nice, smart children, all of them, but I tell you the younger ones show the want of a father. George had the government. Hattie has none and she resents any one else saying anything. We all know too many bosses spoil children.

I note what you say about May being left, I'm so sorry for her. Hope you will write again and if this reaches you alright, I'll send you a paper giving account of George's death. I'd like you to see one. I have another letter to write tonight so will bid you good night. With love to each and all. I've had a hard time writing, the boys are so noisy and rough. Hattie can't make them mind or work.

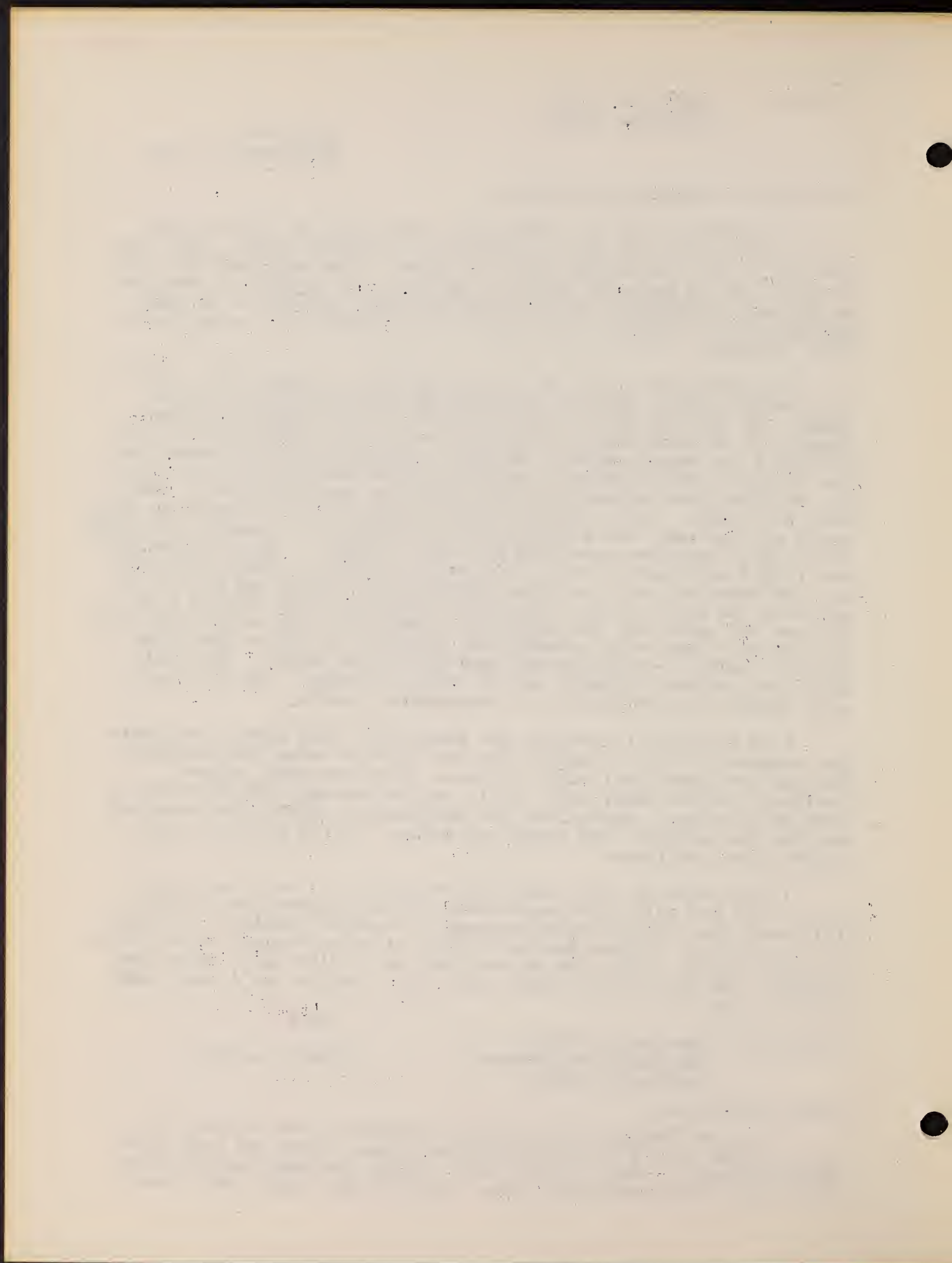
Ada 88

Letter to: Charles B. Purdy
544 Hawthorne Terrace
Portland, Oregon

August 23, 1901

Very dear brother,

I am at Ridley's taking care of mother. She is sick, we think it her last sickness but do not know. Lewis and wife were here yesterday. They are all well. Sammy was here last week and will come to see her again soon. Wish you and Ralph could come



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and see her. I will not say for the last time again.

I must close for the present, but will write soon.

Love to Mary and the young people,

Sister Tury 89

Dear brother, (Charles)

I did not know where to address this letter but heard Maud's husband was in Portland. I hunted for the last letter from you which you wrote mother, but cannot find it. I did find several of Maud's letters from Ortonville but none from Oregon.

I would like to see that Angora goat skin, in fact, I would like one. I've never seen one. I would give more to see you and family. I cannot see why I did not go and see you all when I was out at Willies. I think I would only have felt as though I ought to be home after Minnie wrote that papa was home and was not very well.

Tury

3204 N.E. 48th Ave.
Portland, Oregon
November 20, 1962

Dear Cousin John:

Don't know if I even wrote and thanked you for the money you sent me. Had Iva get me an electric blanket. But we have had such a mild winter, and then I have been gone so much that I have not had the use of the blanket.

Did they send you the large picture of Grandpa and Grandma Purdy? I had no way of knowing and hope you let me know.

I won't be down to the old place much. My son Arvid is fixing me a place near them, and I can go to church with them. Am sending you a few snapshots that I thought you might like.

Would you please send me Effie Purdy's address? Iva took the one you sent in a letter. I guess they think I am not capable of writing.

Yes we had quite a wind storm for this country. I expect your cousin wrote and told you. I am going for new glasses tomorrow, so may be able to write better.

We'll send you this letter and some snap shots you might like.

Hope you have a nice Thanksgiving and both keep well. Write me at Mardies, address: H. Walker, 3204 N.E. 40th Ave., and I will get it.

Love to both of you,

Cousin Maude Thomas

(Daughter of Charles and Mary Purdy. JWM)

Grandmother Margaret Ann Purdy's Letters

Editor's Note:

These letters from Grandmother Margaret Ann Purdy give some insight into the family story. Grandfather Purdy passed away in 1863. My mother Emma, the youngest living child was 10 years old. All the family had left home by 1873 or before. Charlie was the last to go early in the 1870's. Ridley was the only one who stayed with the family. At grandfather's death he was 17 years old and apparently the only one left on the farm except Charlie.

Ridley was married around 1870. Grandmother's letters indicate that she sold the farm at Smithfield where the family moved in 1853 to Ridley around 1870-5. Mary's letters tell about Ridley sending money to grandmother and her daughter Emma. Other letters indicate gifts from the others on occasions.

Emma, my mother was the youngest child. Her only sister Haturia married James Vrooman in 1853, the year Emma was born. My grandmother and her daughter Emma were together many years after the others were married. They lived alone in the old Smithfield home, for several years after Ridley was married and then bought a place east of Gordon's Mill now (Miller's Crossing). In the later 1870's Emma was away at school and grandmother visited from home to home. Emma taught school at Presque Isle near Brighton but quit in order to help her mother with Ridley's children, after Ridley's first wife Anna Ireland Purdy died. After Emma's marriage, grandmother came to Nebraska to live with her so the two were still together until my mother's death in 1887. Then grandmother went back to Canada where she died in 1902 at 89 years of age.

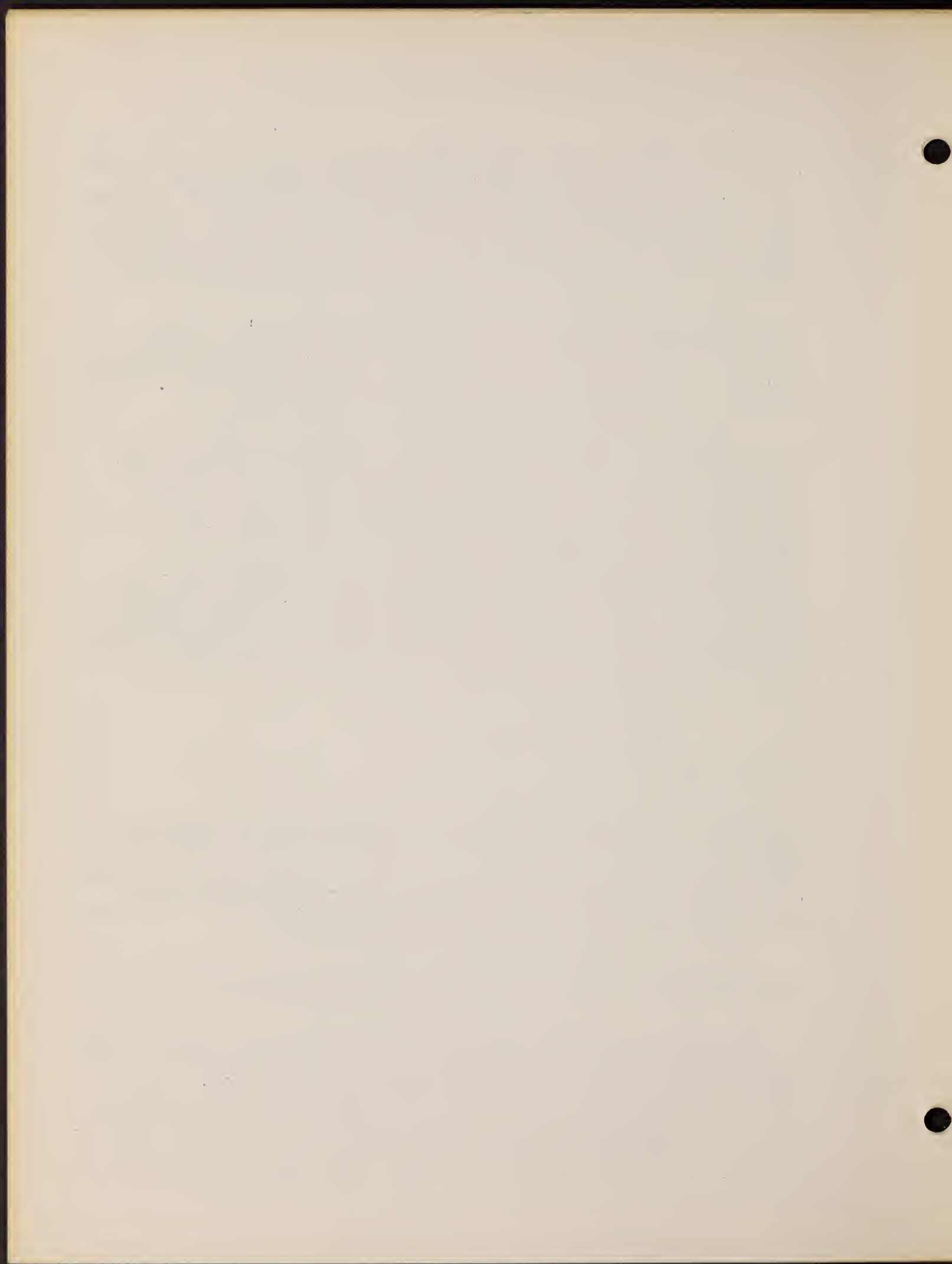
Letter to: Emma Purdy
Mill Island - 1870

My Dear Emma,

We are all well at present only Minnie is better than she has been. She has been very sick. Hoping this will find you all well. I am not very well at present but hope I will be better in a few days for I do intend to get some medicine from Dr. Day. I am at Sam's at present and Ralph has been all right but has gone home this morning. He has little Nella with him. He lives in Norwood. Ralph looks thin but feels well.

Sarah is preparing to keep house. Mary E is planning to move now soon. This is not fully as pretty a place as I thought it was.

Dear Emma you said you went to church on Sunday night. That is more than I have done. They had prayer meeting on the boat and that was a great treat for I enjoyed it very much. It is very dry here and the crops are doing pretty well considering the day weather. When I see you I can tell you more in a minute than I can write in an hour. Please write and tell me how all of you are and if Annie is better and if she has got a girl. If she has not, it is time she had. Tell Ridly and Anna to write to



me,

Tura is nursing the baby and I have not been down the street but intend to go today. I add no more at present only I remain as ever your dearest Mother. Give my love to all and keep a double share for your own dear self. I am going to see Mr. Ireland's ⁹¹ people as soon as I can. Then I will write Annie a long letter.

Letter to: Emma Purdy
from: her mother
Trenton - Mill Island
July 11, 1873

Dear Emma,

I will write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well except little Minnie and she is better. This morning I have written to you and told you that I had a very pleasant journey to Maturia's and while the boat was going through the canal they had to go among so many locks that a good many passengers took the hacks and went to see the falls of Niagara and I went with them. I had to pay one dollar and a half to go and come and had to go eight miles there and back. We went one way and came back another and it is a very handsome country around the falls and it was a very nice place at the falls. A beautiful garden of flowers, a fish pond with gold fishes and buffalo--three of them and a little calf, not a sheep's calf but a buffalo calf. Willa goes to school. They have a school house here on the Island.

We went to the falls and Tuesday and Wednesday night I went to Brighton. I intended to get off at Trenton but they stopped so short a time that I stayed on and went to Brighton and was there until Sunday. I remain

Your Mother, Margaret Ann.

Letter to: Emma Purdy
from: her mother
Brighton

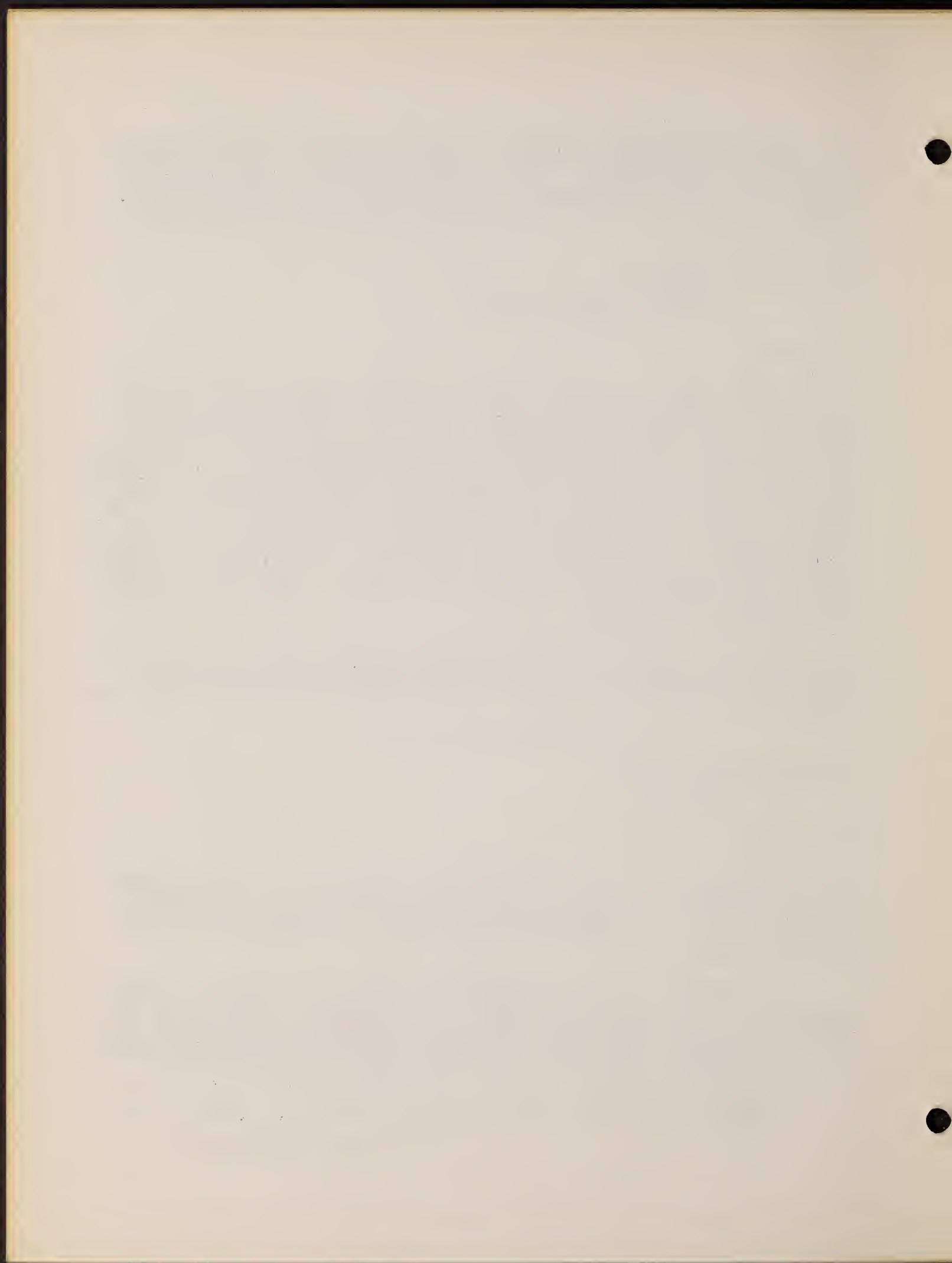
Dear Emma,

I think if you would rather stay there and go to school never mind the expense but go on. But if you have made up your mind to come home do so for I am very lonely here. You may depend I have not sent you your things and do not intend to until you write for in particular.

I received your letter Wednesday and was much pleased to hear from you. Mr. Sandford is dying or so I heard. I am going up to see him now and I will move when I come back. ⁹²Mr. Sandford is quite old. He will not last long. I hope you will go and see your Uncle Jacob and family and when you get there give them all my love.

I remain your mother until death does us part. I add no more only I remain

Your mother, Margaret Ann



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Letter to: Emma Purdy
from: her mother
August 8, 1877

Dear Emma:

I hardly know what to write to you but I think I will remain here a while longer before I go to Ridley's for Mary is going to quilting next week. Mary and myself have quilted two last week and one this week. If I am able we will put one up next week. So you see I get my board by hard work. I go up every morning to quilt. I am going up tomorrow afternoon and bind. Including the binding time we were only three days quilting on each of the others.

Mrs. Flindell and Anna called today, but I was up to Lewis'. Julia Wright is home. She has called here two or three times. Stay as long as you please and as long as you get your bread and dinner.

Have you heard anything about where Sarah, Ralph and family are?

I cannot write any more tonight. Love to all. Good night. I'd wish you would let me know how Willa is and how he is getting along and how Jennie, Tute and yourself are.

Mother

Letter to: Emma Purdy
from: her mother
October 20, 1877
Brighton

Dear Daughter,

I will try and write you a few lines to let you know that I feel quite well at present. Hoping this will find you well. Do write soon and often and tell me if your head is better.

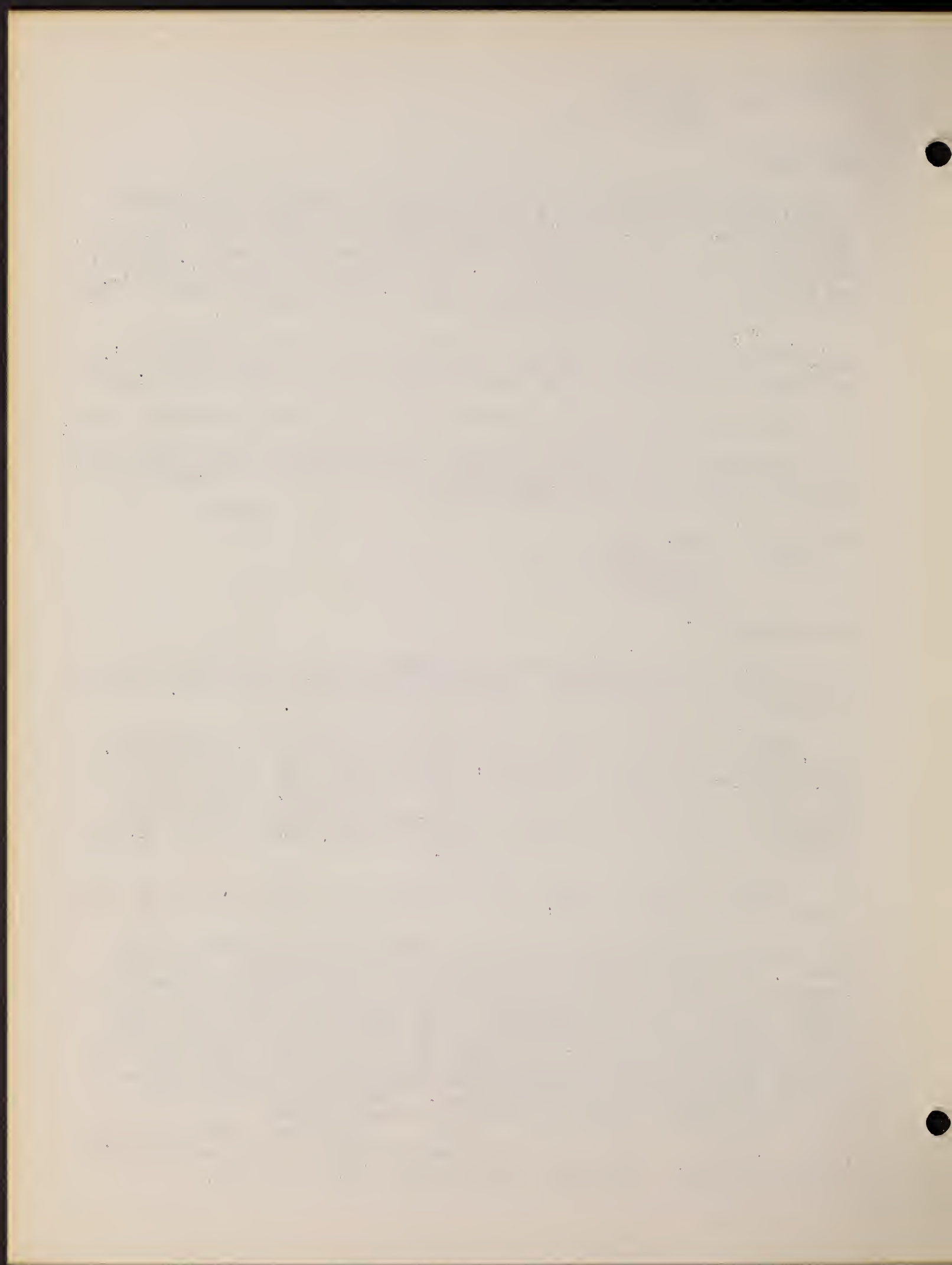
Ridley said for you to get yourself a bottle of Sarsaparilla. He expects to send you more money when you write for it. I was to Rid's two weeks and I am at Tute's yet for Tute has a good deal to do. James is not very well at present. I received a letter from Charley. I will send it to you. He has another baby and wants to come and see them. He said Mr. Taylor is dead, that he took poison. He did not say he took it on purpose.

Write to David he wants your address. He wrote to Rid and told him he wanted your address.

Rid has not given me any more money yet but I expect he will soon. Will says if you do not write to him he will put a tin can on you. He has a little pup now and he is making such a noise that I can scarcely write. I have not been to Brighton since I left on Sunday as you left on Wednesday. I am going back when I get some money and see to things. Write and tell me what you want and I will try and get things for you and make it up. You must get yourself a couple pairs of woolen stockings and keep yourself warm. Tell me how far you have to go to your school. Tell me all particulars. I add no more only I remain as ever, your dear Mother,

for ever, Margaret Ann.

Note: "Tute" or "Turia" are nicknames for Maturia who married James Vrooman in 1853. Maturia's children were Will and Minnie.



The Upper Canada Genealogical Society

Lewis Feliz = 1812 Esther Aylsworth
41859
3 sons | 2 daus.
Sarah = Jos Rose
S.P.

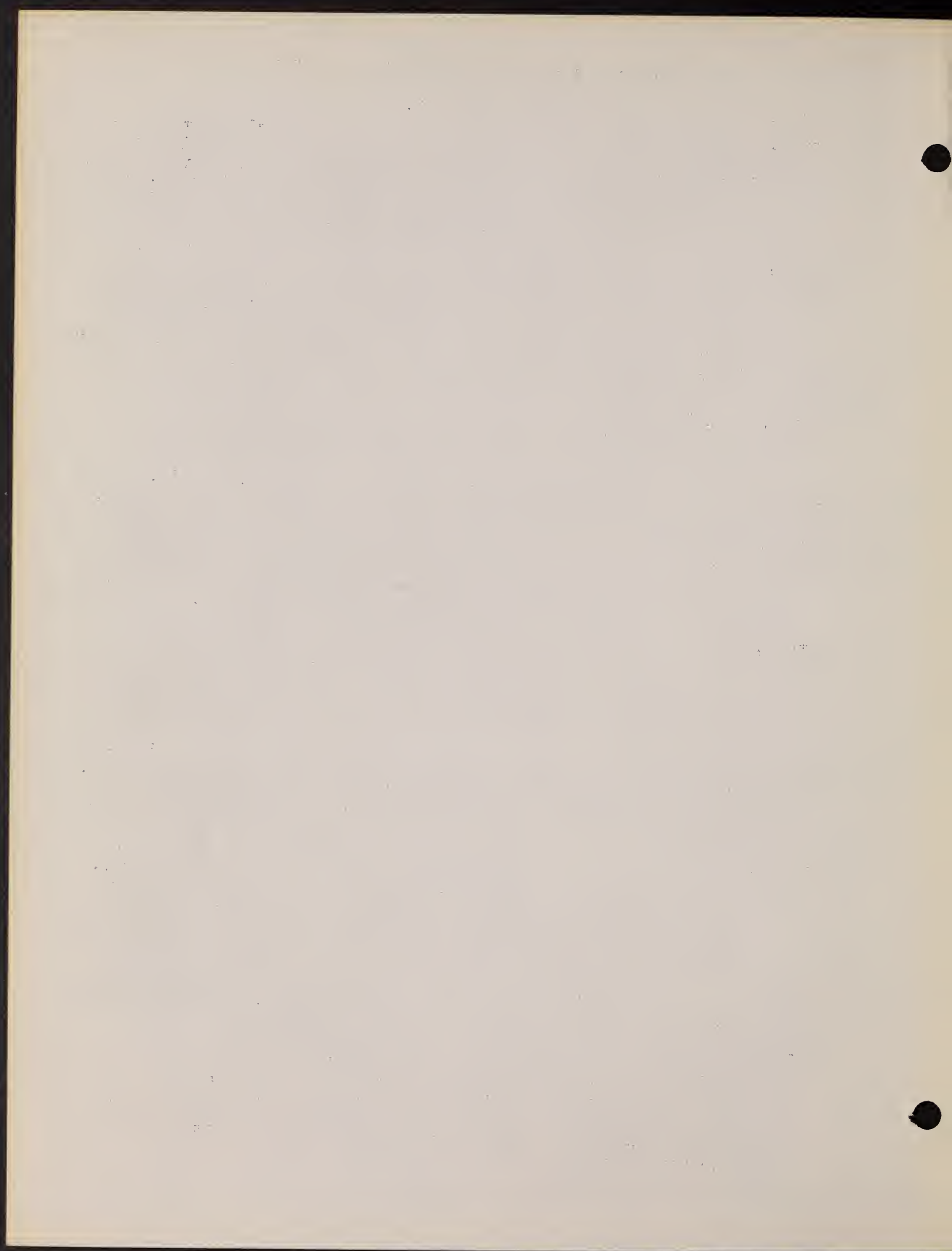
Jos Rose = Annella Wells
1798-1881 1810-1875

Jno Pindy = Anna Feliz
1803 1813

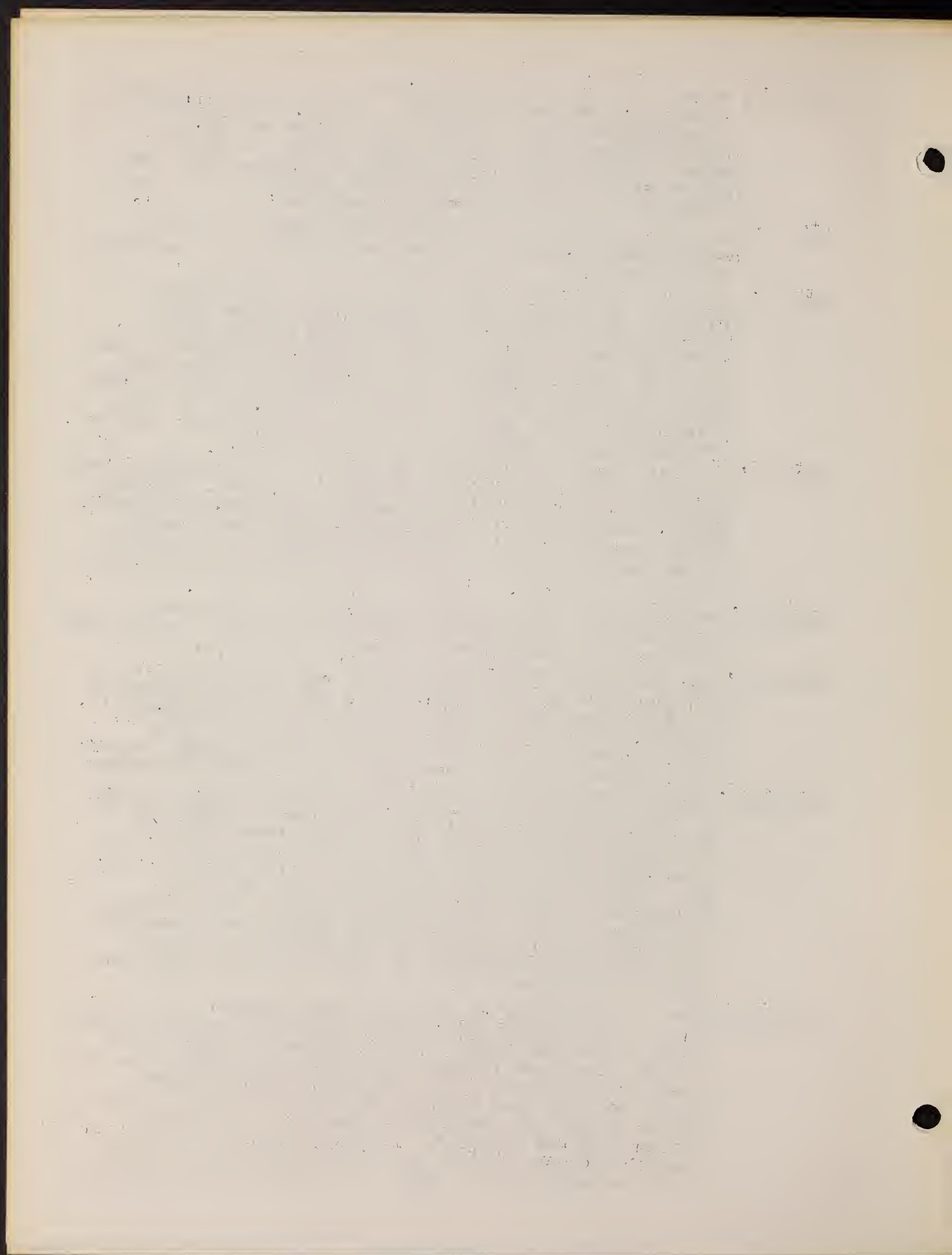
Jacob Pindy = Amelia Feliz.

Appendix: Numbered Explanatory Comments

- Note 1, page 9: refers to introduction.
- Note 2, page 9: The four Purdy brothers and four Purdy sisters or most of them came to Canada from New York in 1783 with the very first contingent under Capt. Michael Grass. David Purdy, the eldest brother, was the great grandfather of the writer and the father of one of the very first families born in Canada including John Purdy, my mother's father.
- Note 3, page 9: From a census report taken in 1885 in Nebraska, we find that grandmother Ann Fretz Purdy states that her father was born in Germany. Later we learn that grandmother Fretz came from Fredericksburgh. (page 28) Ann Fretz married John Purdy. One of her sisters, Amelia, married Jacob who was John's brother. A third, Aurilla, married Jacob Rose. Allen Fretz, the father, must have married a Canadian girl of whom we know nothing.
- Note 4, page 13: We learn later that our Purdy family were well known and were often related to the leaders of these two groups.
- Note 5, page 15: David Purdy located on the last lot, No. 42, Township of Ernestown with the Michael Grass group in 1783.
- Note 6, page 18: All references to "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte" refer to an old book, no author, often notes from the families themselves. Quotes are mostly from notes given us by Dr. H.C. Burleigh of Bath or from Dr. H. Pierson Gundy, Chief Librarian of Queen's University of Kingston.
- Note 7, page 18: There is confusion here because David Purdy, the eldest brother of the four from New York is not mentioned as being present. His younger brother, Gilbert, is mentioned. Pages 19 and 20 explain. Later we learn of many inter-relationships between the Purdys of our family and others of this group.
- Note 8, page 18: This David and his son David are descendants of Gilbert, the younger brother, of our great grandfather David who settled on Lot 42 near Collins Bay in 1783 and married Abigail Ostrom and raised a family of six boys and two girls including grandfather John. Notes pages 28 and 29.
- Note 9, page 19: All this taken directly from "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte" refers to the descendants of Gilbert Purdy, one of the four original brothers from New York. Gilbert here is the younger brother of David, our great grandfather. Gilbert settled nearer Kingston. His descendants mostly became business and professional men in Kingston.
- Note 10, page 21: Michael Grass was the leader of the first group. The Grass family, Everett family and Purdy family were related in several ways in several generations.
- Note 11, page 21: It is believed that certain Palmer family descendants moved to Trenton and vicinity and married into the Purdy family. Sarah and Mary Eliza Palmer, daughter of Wilson Palmer married sons of John Purdy. Samuel and Ralph Wilson and Philip Palmer were brothers and possibly sons of James I. Palmer (Ebenezer). This is yet to be proven conclusively.



- Note 12, page 22 and 23: Ruliff Ostrom was the father of Abigail Ostrom who married David Purdy. There were the parents of grandfather John and some six other sons and two daughters. Our story really begins with this family. Abigail's sister Diana married Abel Gilbert of Sidney, 1811. This is how the Gilberts of Trenton were related to the Purdy family as reported by living descendants.
- Note 13, page 23: Barnabas Day married Rhoda Purdy, a sister of David Purdy. Barnabus Day settled in 1783 with the Michael Grass contingent.
- Note 14, page 24: Samuel D. Purdy was a son of our David and Abigail. He lived in the original stone house still standing near Collins Bay built by his father David in 1784-5 or thereabouts. Eliza Ann married Dr. Day. They moved to Trenton where Dr. Day practiced for many years. His fine old home is now occupied by Dr. Jack Palmer whose father took over Dr. Days practice. Eliza Ann Day was a first cousin of my mother Emma because Samuel and John, my grandfather, were both sons of David Purdy.
- Note 15, page 24: These descendants of Gilbert, our David's brother, settled mostly in and around Kingston, Ontario. Many are buried in the cemeteries in Kingston. The writers located many of the graves of these early Purdys. John Wesley Purdy's resting place is especially prominent. We understand that his records of Purdy geneology are detailed and complete.
- Note 16, page 24: The Days, Shibleys and the Purdys have many relationships coming mostly through Rhoda Purdy, one of the sisters of our David from New York.
- Note 17, page 25: John Abbott who married Mary Purdy one of the two daughters of David and Abigail settled quite close to the John Purdy family of Sidney, Trenton or Brighton. Mary was grandfather John's sister and an aunt of my mother, Emma, and her brothers Sam, Ridley, Lewis, Ralph, etc. Letters refer to John Abbott and to the Ellerbecks.
- Note 18, page 26: This note is very important in tracing the life of "Gilbert Purdy of Hallowell" as stated. This page of notes is written by Dr. H. C. Burleigh from his notes. This Gilbert is the eldest son of David and Abigail. It seems that this marriage lasted only very briefly. It is about this Gilbert that H. Pierson Gundy of Queen's College wrote a bulletin entitled "Gilbert Purdy-Jack-of-all-Trades". It is probable that Gilbert soon remarried, this time to Hannah Gould and they raised a family of six children the beginning of a heredity group quite well traced out to date.
- Note 19, page 27: This page is introduced here because it refers to one Samuel Purdy who we think was one of the four Purdy brothers from New York. On page 28 and on pages 29-30 we find references to this brother who apparently came to Canada several years after the other three brothers. Finding all the good land around the Lake Ontario taken he went inland and established the first stage route between York and Kingston. We find reference to this "Samuel Purdy stage line" in an article of May 24, 1961 in the Cobourg Sentinel Star, recounting an old historical



date.

This page is taken from a booklet sent to me by Douglas J. Purdy of Bath, Ontario. Douglas is the son of Harold Purdy, late of Kingston, who died in 1961. Harold now dead is the son of Lew Purdy and Lew is one of the three sons of Samuel Purdy (1842-1930) of Castleton and Coe Hill. Samuel was a brother of my mother Emma. Sam's father was John Purdy. Douglas found this booklet among his father's possessions and said his father thought the Samuel mentioned was one of the four brothers from New York, note page 28 in regard to this.

Note 20, page 28: This page by Dr. Burleigh, U.E.L. historian is very important in many respects. It locates our great grandfather David who married Abigail Ostrom, on his land, which he located under Michael Grass in 1783 near what is now Collins Bay. All eight of the children are mentioned as well as David's three brothers. There is some confusion about another son Micajah, not mentioned. Micajah, David's brother, is mentioned and the article speaks of his five wives and 23 children.

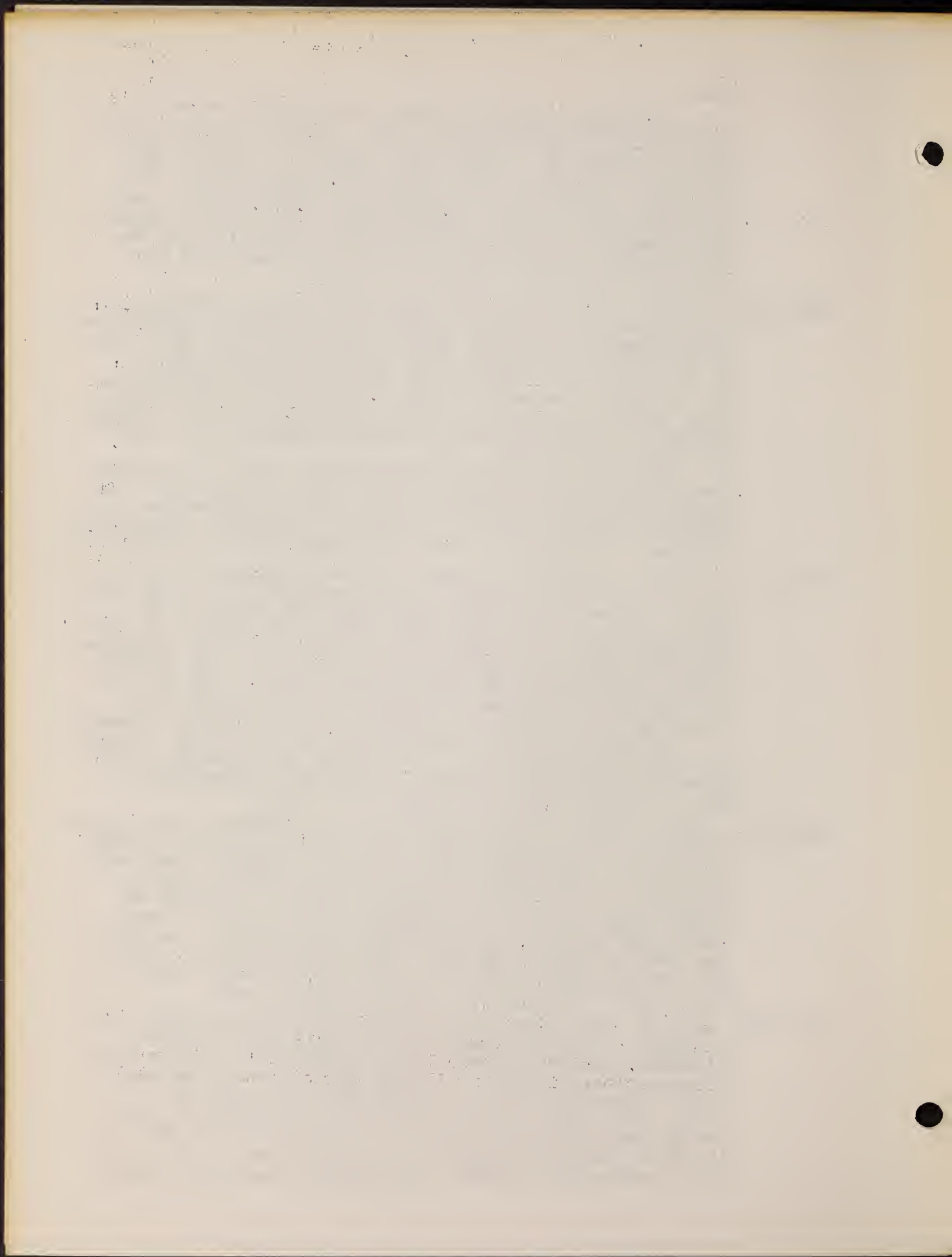
John, the writer's grandfather and his grandfather's brother Jacob are mentioned here. They lived close to one another in the Sidney neighborhood. They married the Fretts or Frets sisters. We have much about the descendants of these two brothers. Study this page and refer to it.

Note 21, page 29: This page together with the previous one tell much of the Purdy story. We have referred to it time after time. At the top we have named the eight children of Gilbert Purdy of New York. All eventually came to Canada. The first three sons came via Sorel in 1783. The daughters Mercy and Rhoda came up from Sorel in 1784. Mary we don't locate and Charlotte with her brother Samuel came up from New York somewhat later. Note the following page 30 in regard to more history of the first of the Purdys in Canada.

The second group, page 29, include all of the family of David and Abigail Ostrom. Listed here is Michajah D. of Ernestown (later named Bath). Possibly Dr. Burleigh can help us locate more about this son of David.

Note 22, page 30: This story compiled by H. C. Burleigh shows that certain numbers of the Purdy family did not come to Canada in 1783-4. Apparently David, Gilbert, Micajah, Rhoda and Mercy did. Since the boys could not get their Canadian land until age 21 and the girls at marriage perhaps the others were too young in 1783-84. Descendants of Jacob Purdy, the family of Elva Mae Hobbs of Toronto, has today, the deed for land taken up by Mary Purdy later on. This Mary we are told is either one of the original sisters or the mother of this entire family from New York.

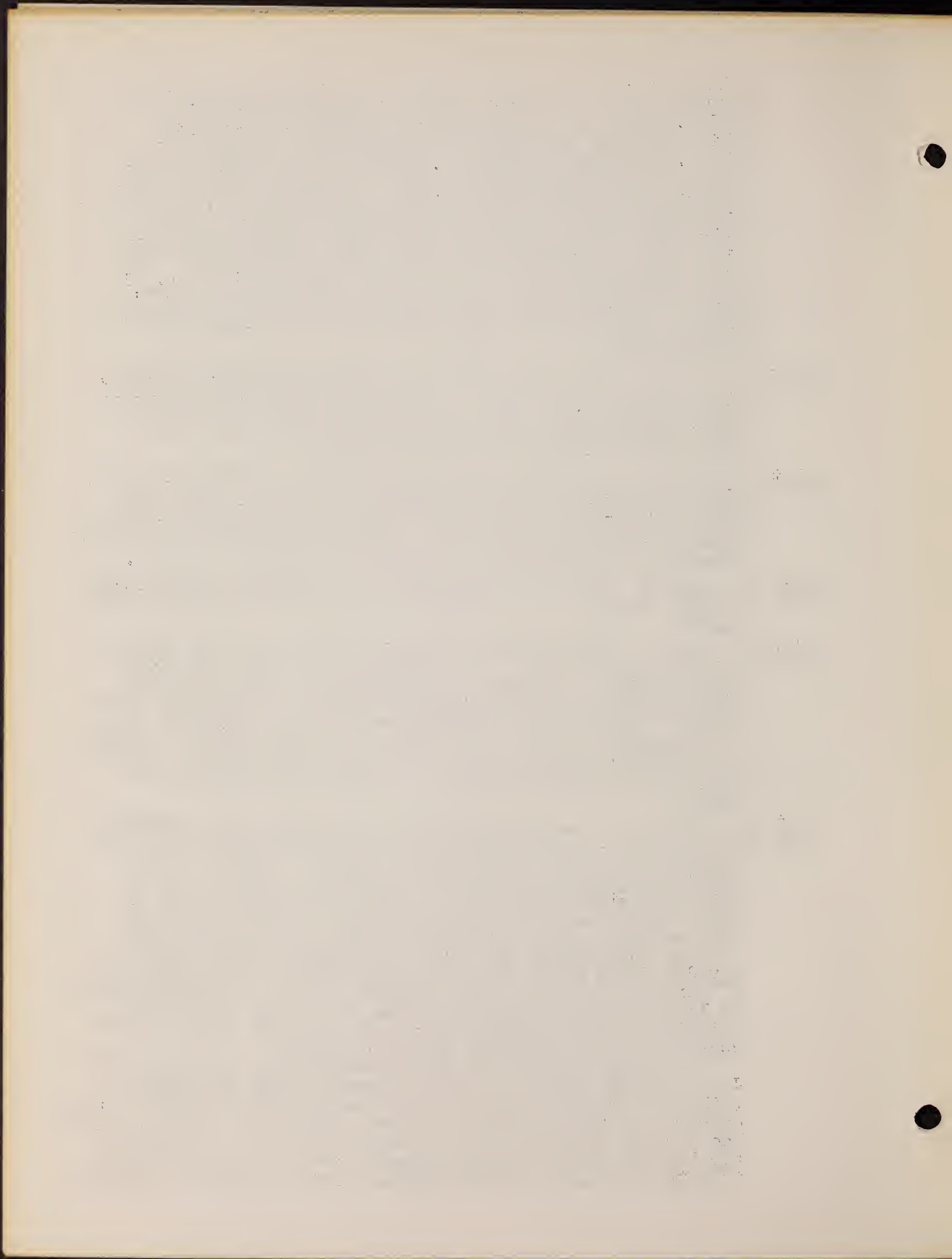
Note 23, page 31: The following 2 pages contain family data from this old St. John's Church which itself is a historical monument. These baptismal dates check quite closely with other sources of dates. We know that John's birth was in 1803. His baptism was in 1803. The dates when David's family drew their land is confusing if each was of age. Abigail was married according to Ostrom genealogy page 22 in 1810. Unless practically all of David's children were from another wife, Abigail was married long before 1810.



If Gilbert the eldest drew his land in 1810 and was 21 then Abigail was married over 21 years before 1810 or in 1789. On page 23 of the Ostrom genealogy from "Pioneer Life" it states that Abigail was baptised on April 14, 1764. On page 36 of the J.C. Clarke diary notes, Abigail was born in 1761 and died in 1852. That would make her 46 years old at her marriage in 1810. It seems quite probable that Abigail came to Sorel in 1783 and arrived with the first women in 1784 at Cataragui, marrying David shortly thereafter, nearer the age of 20. The youngest child was Jacob baptised in 1812 at St. John's Church in Bath. If Abigail was baptised in 1764 she would be 48 at Jacob's birth, if Gilbert the oldest was born in 1810--21 in 1789. We think all dates are fairly correct except Abigail's marriage date.

- Note 24, page 31: The names and ages on these reports will have to be checked with those of known ages from other sources. There are too many Purdys with similar names. Names on grave stones checked to this given age could help locate burial places. There are discrepancies.
- Note 25, page 33: The name Fretz is variously spelled Frettz or Frets probably the first spelling is correct. There are close Purdy-Fretz blood lines between the families of the brothers, John and Jacob Purdy. Most data (notes 26 and 27) regarding Purdy-Fretz-Rose furnished by Elva Mae Hobbs.
- Note 26, page 34: The J.C. Clark Diary is a valuable contribution to Purdy history. J. C. Clark was a personal friend of the family.
- Note 27, page 37: This entry in the J.C. Clark Diary is either erroneous or accounts for a daughter of John Purdy whom we cannot locate or confirm. John Purdy and Anna Fretz had eleven children. The obituary of Maturia who married James Vrooman, the eldest child confirms this, see page 98. All are accounted for but two, Phillip of whom we have a picture but no other data and perhaps this daughter, Miss W. Purdy who married a James Freeman. We have no data about this family.
- Note 28, page 39: Elsewhere there is some controversy regarding this Gilbert. On page 76 we are told that Gilbert was the oldest son of David and Abigail Ostrom who married Miss Asenath Goldsmith of Hallowell (Picton). On page 28 we note that Gilbert Purdy was married to Asenath on May 1, 1816. Later in this article we learn that she left him. On page 31 below data of Parish Register, St. John's Church we have information about land drawings saying Gilbert, David's first child drew his land in 1810. This would seem to fix his age at 21 years previous to this or approximately in 1789 since men draw their land at age 21. His mother Abigail if born as stated in the J. C. Clark Diary in 1761 would be 28 or younger at Gilbert's birth.

Through Elva Mae Hobbs, a granddaughter of David's son Jacob (still living in 1963) we have learned that Amelia (Millie) Purdy who married John Rose and who was Elva Mae's mother knew this Gilbert Purdy who was Jacob's brother. Elva Mae recalls that her mother actually kept this Gilbert in her home and sent him one winter up to his brother Samuel in Bath to stay. Elva Mae recalls that her mother told her



that Gilbert married a Gould. Note letter from Elva Mae Hobbs, page 112 of this study. This data seemed factual enough for the writer to assume that Gilbert's second wife was Hannah Gould and that Gilbert and Hannah with their six children were the forerunners of a large Purdy group elsewhere compiled but explained more in detail on page 77.

Note 28b, page 40: Old bible and family records of Will M. Purdy of Toronto, a son of Ridley Purdy one of the children of John Purdy and Anna Fretz, lists John's brother Gilbert as the eldest son and calls him Dr. Gilbert. Mrs. Hobbs in her letters page 47 and a brief article regarding Gilbert on page 76 of this manuscript give other data regarding this Gilbert. It would seem, from his descendants, if he married Hannah Gould that Gilbert was not as ignorant as the notebook of this article "Jack-of-all-Trades" indicates. At least his descendants followed those of his other brothers into becoming pretty substantial citizens.

Note 29a, page 42: There are seven first cousins left, Maud's sister May Hunt is living in Portland.

Note 29b, page 79: We repeat that Jacob and John Purdy were closer to each other than the other brothers. Jacob's daughter Amelia (Millie) was a close friend and double cousin of my mother Emma Purdy the daughter of John, Millie's daughter Elva Mae Hobbs has written Jacob's family up in her letters copied verbatim pages 103-116.

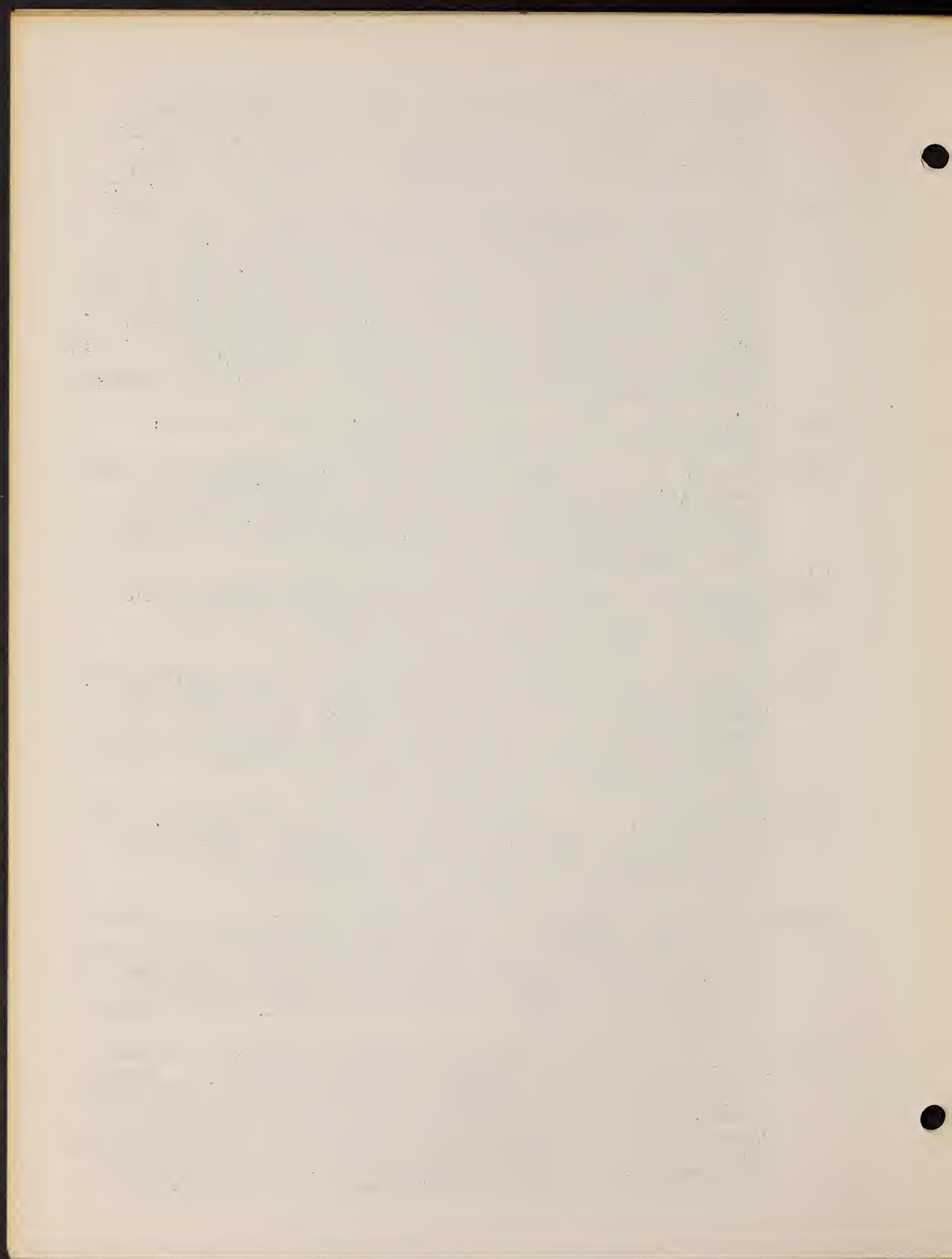
Note 30, page 81: In spite of repetition elsewhere this article gives the most concise study of John Purdy, his wife, Margaret Ann Fretz Purdy and their family. Under (H) we know that Charles married Mary E. McConnell.

Note 31, page 87: An article appearing in the Trentonian (Brighton, Ontario) under date of Wednesday, July 18, 1962 gives the name of Alfred W. Purdy, born in Wooler. He is called the "Ameliasburg Poet". This article states that he has had 3 books of poetry published and two awaiting publication and he is also a playwright. It would seem that Al Purdy is the son of Fred Purdy. This is not verified.

Note 32, page 87: Will Mosgrove Purdy is living today (1963). He is close to 90 years old and the only living child of any of the children of John Purdy living in Canada. Will's wife Audrey recently died (1962). Note the letters of his daughter written for Will by Winnifred Ellis.

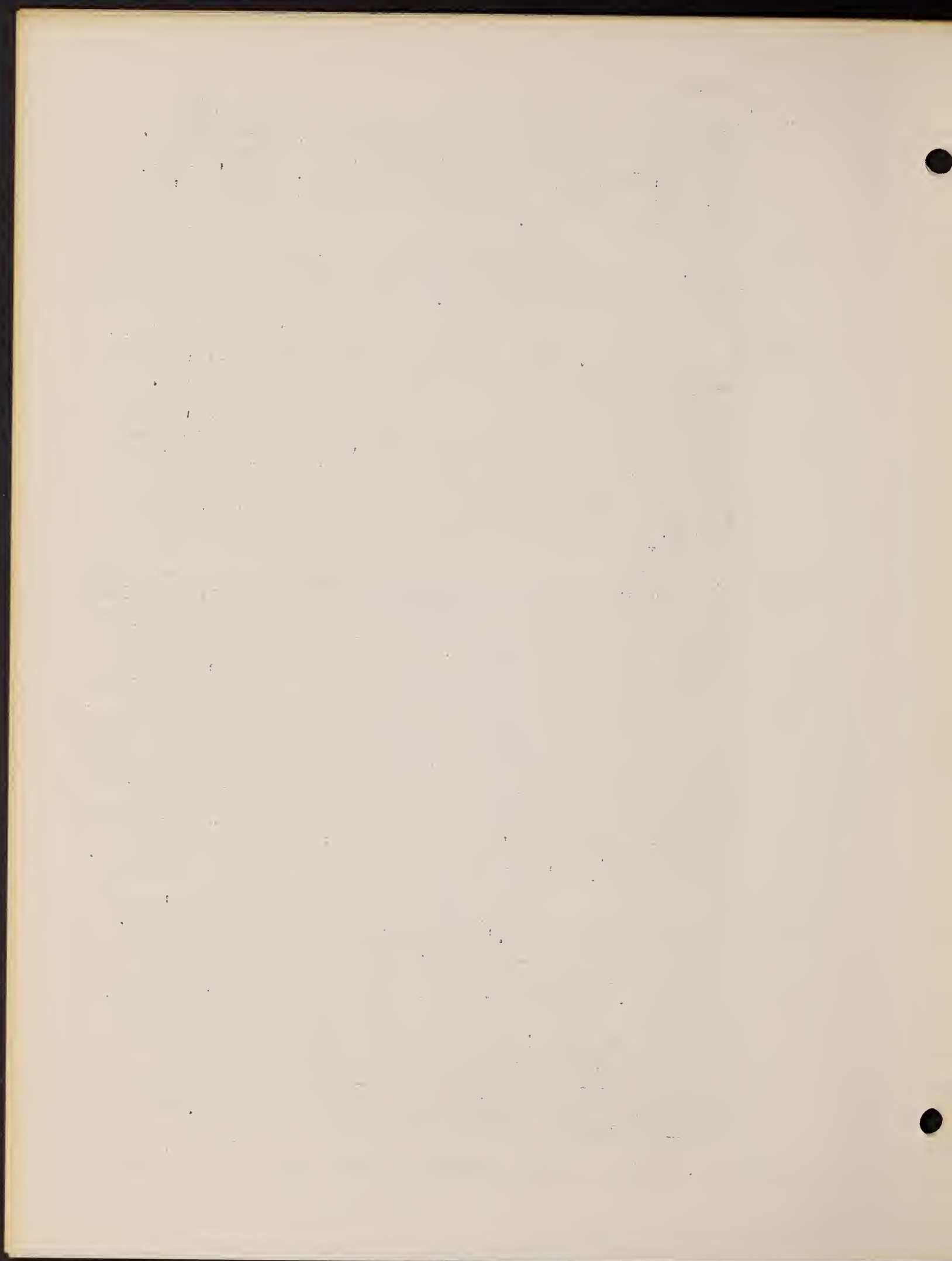
Note 33, page 88: The family of Charles and Mary Purdy was found in Portland, Oregon in October, 1962. There were three children, Maud who married Sam Thomas and raised six children; Maturia (May) who married a "Hunt" and had three children. Both are still living. The third a son named Lewis Allen never married and died in 1859. Note pages 99-102 for more information.

Note 34, page 88: This refers to the eight children of John and Anna Purdy who grew up, married and raised families. These eight families have been located and described in some detail. Though other children of the eleven are quite unknown, Emma Jane Purdy, the mother of the writer, John Wesley, and his brother Charles F. Masten wrote a large number of letters from Canada to her intended husband, our father. Some of these and a number of other old Purdy letters are printed here



beginning on page 166-174.

- Note 35, page 97: In reading the letters written by Elva Mae Hobbs beginning page 103, the reader will find much additional information about the Lewis A. Purdy family. This information came in much later. We learned that Elva Mae's father, John Rose and Lewis A. Purdy's wife, Mary Louisa Rose were brother and sister. Elva Mae's maiden name was Rose.
- Note 36, page 98: This obituary was sent to the writer by Ione Oakes. It is very significant in enumerating the number (11) of children in the John Purdy family and in locating the old home and other data.
- Note 37, page 101: Lewis A. Purdy is the eldest son of John and Anna Purdy. He was perhaps the wealthiest in the old family in the early days. Lewis A. always lived in Brighton but had stores in both Trenton and Brighton. It is interesting that he mentions the Jones and Farley families who were cousins and the marriage of Sam's son Walter to Miss Nichol of Castleton. This Miss Nichol is still living in Peterborough, Ontario. Mrs. Eva Mae Purdy has written us many letters which are included verbatim on pages 134-141. Her husband Walter is not living. She has two daughters and a son mentioned in her letters.
- Note 38, page 103: Elva Mae Hobbs has furnished the writer with much information not obtainable elsewhere, all pages from 103 to 116 are hers. Her letters are filled with original information in the following pages often checking information from other sources. Any repetition itself if it occurs helps authenticate other data. The Miss Mallory mentioned was a close friend of Lewis A. Purdy's daughter Maud. Ione Oakes mentioned Fannie Mallory to me and I wrote her for information about the Lewis A. Purdy family. As stated she referred my letter to Elva Mae. What a lucky break for our entire story. The writer's hope is to live long enough to visit Elva Mae who lives with her daughter Grace, son Elmer Hobbs and his wife Hattie and family. They have lately moved to 114 Applefield Drive, Scarborough a suburb of Toronto. Telephone to Grace at H.D. 3-6200 Extension 315 of Toronto. Elva Mae's mother knew my mother Emma. They were double cousins and close friends.
- Note 39, page 105: We heard from Will H. Purdy of Toronto and also from this remark by Elva Mae that Ridley's son Fred who was Will H.'s brother had a son named Alfred. We have under date of July 16, 1962 received a long newspaper clipping from the Trentonian which tells about this Alfred W. Purdy of R.R. #1, Ameliasburgh, Ontario and his plays and poetry. Elva Mae Hobbs knew Ridley's family, all four of them. My mother Emma quit her job teaching school at Presque Isle, Brighton to care for those children when their mother Anna Ireland Purdy died. Elva Mae knew the only daughter of Ridley named Lillian and about the tragic accident that cost her life at the railway crossing, page 114 for further details.
- Note 40, page 107: The material on these pages is very valuable



often original or following quite closely some on pages 13 to 33 from Dr. H.C. Burleigh of Bath. Please note that our early Purdy families were intermarried with many leading citizens of early Canadian history.

Note 41, page 108: Jacob Purdy was a brother of our grandfather, John Purdy. The brothers married Fretz sisters. The third sister, Aurilla, married Jacob Rose. The Rose family included Mary Louisa, the wife of Lewis A. Purdy of Brighton and John Solomon Rose who became the father of Elva Mae (Rose) Hobbs.

Note 42, page 110: Allen Fretz, a brother of these three girls moved to Superior, Wisconsin where he raised a family. Allen Fretz, as noted, was also the father of these girls. Ralph Purdy one of my grandparents, (John and Anna Purdy's) sons moved to Superior with his wife Sarah (Palmer) Purdy and were well acquainted with the Allen Fretz family of Superior, Wisconsin.

Note 43, page 111: In a number of old historical references it is common knowledge that a considerable number of Purdys came to Canada from New York, a few in 1783 in addition to our family from Newburgh. Some are reported as cousins, uncles and other relatives. It is reported that a number went to St. John. It is known that a number came after 1800. However, the original family of our story all of the eight children of Gilbert Purdy of New York, whom we have traced, were the first Purdys to settle from Kingston to Ernestown coming with Michael Grass in 1783. The writer has told that to be a United Empire Loyalist family it had to arrive along the lake shore before 1790. Considerable history of these early families has been preserved by these U.E.L.'s.

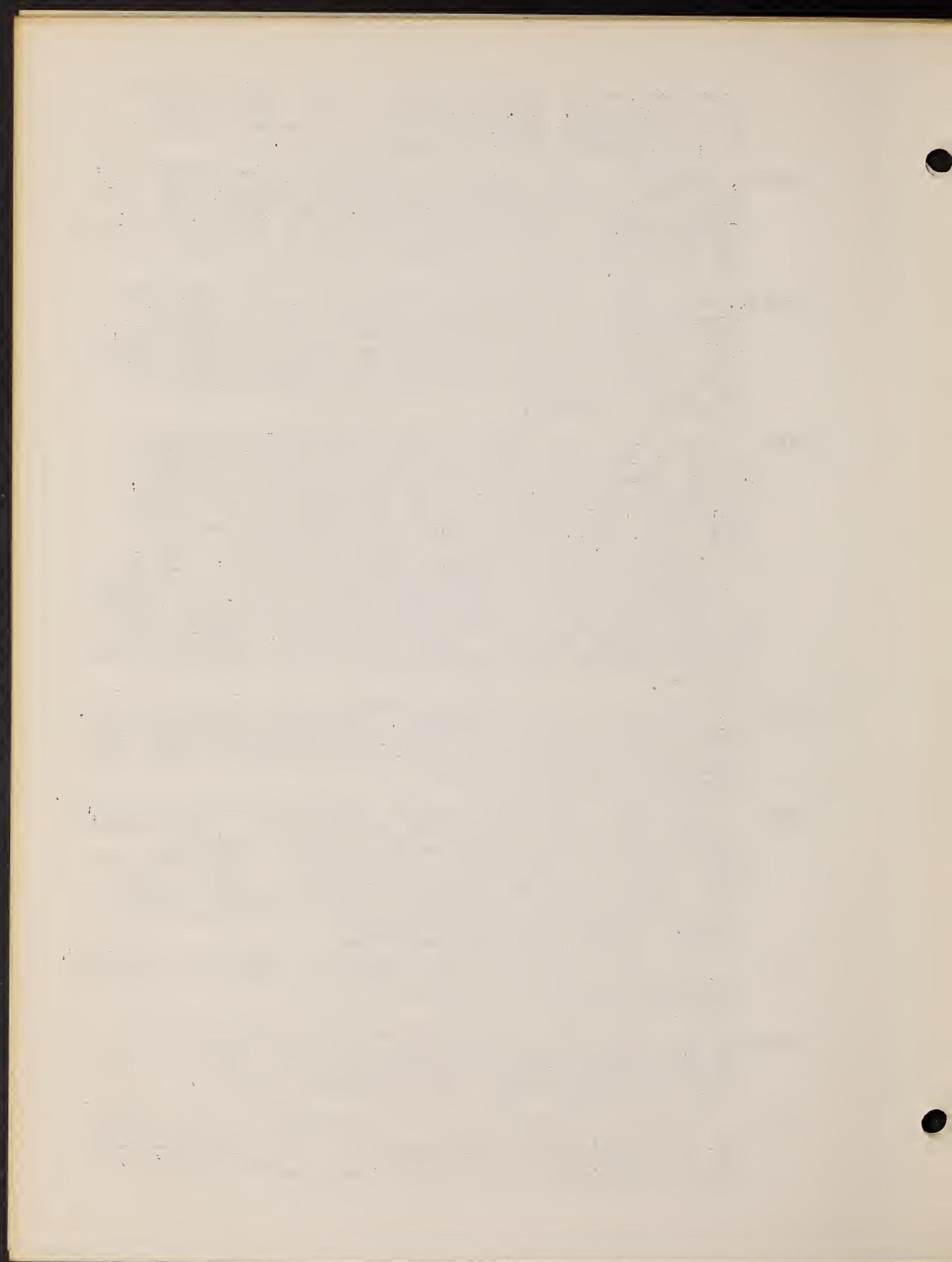
Note 44, page 111: Lev A. Purdy, another brother of my mother Emma spent his life in Brighton. The entire family is gone, no descendants, all buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery along with grandmother Margaret Anna. Elva Mae Hobbs story about this family has been very welcome.

Note 45, page 111: Information about Ruliff Purdy has been scarce. We have known that the Dorlands were cousins. Mother Emma's letters have mentioned this several times. Also the Jones family and the Farleys were cousins. Note especially page 75 in regard to these relationships. Tobitha Purdy was another daughter of Ruliff. Tobitha married William Jones. Jane Ann Jones was the mother of the Farley family of Hazel, Helen, Dr. Frank and Norden.

Note 46, page 112: Mary was also grandfather John Purdy's sister. Information about the Elderbecks and the Abbotts has not been followed up.

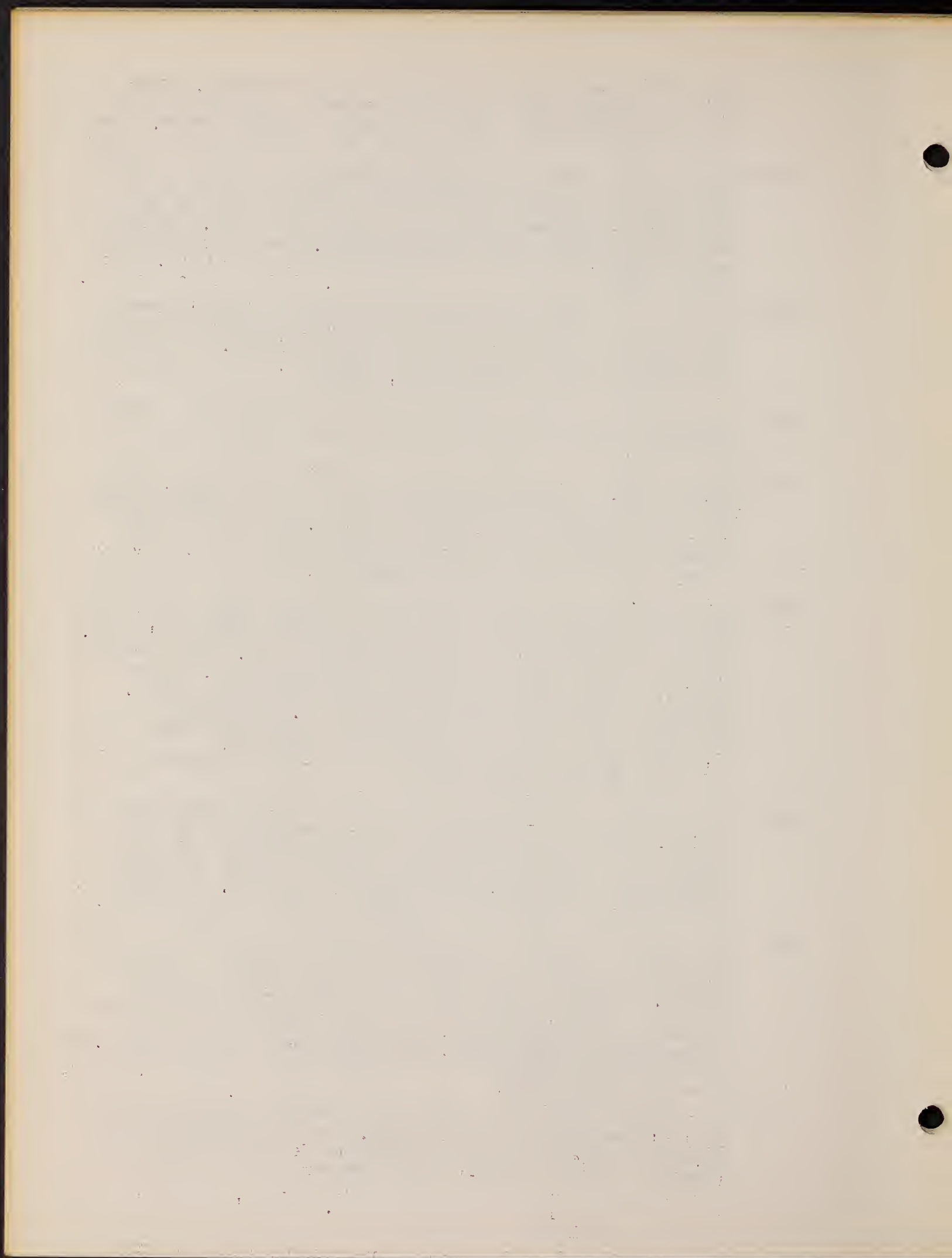
Note 47, page 112: This bit of information is very valuable and ties Gilbert into a long line of known family relationships which are already written up in considerable detail in another study. Note reference page 76.

Note 48, page 112: John Purdy is the grandfather of the writer and the father of his mother. Born in 1803 a son of David and Abigail Purdy he lived until 1865. He apparently lost his head with the pain of cancer and committed suicide.



He and his wife Margaret Ann had eleven children. John was a respected and well to do citizen. He helped start his sons in business. He was a leader in the church. The writer asked Elva Mae Hobbs about him. This was her answer.

- Note 49, page 112: Jane Ann (called Jennie) was Ridley's second wife. About all we know about her and her family we got here and from Cousin Will Purdy of Keewatin St. one of Ridley's four children from his first wife. There is more information about "Don", Ridley's only descendant from his second wife later on this page; also in the write up on Ridley Purdy.
- Note 50, page 115: This information about Joseph Purdy another brother of grandfather John is a starting point to trace this family. No effort has been made to do so. Dr. Burleigh of Bath has furnished the writer with notes from the J. C. Clark Diary. Notice pages 35-36.
- Note 51, page 115: Samuel Purdy's family is noted here. Samuel is still another brother of John Purdy. Investigation is necessary.
- Note 52, page 115: Dr. Vernon Purdy a dentist in Toronto is a son of Will H. Purdy of Keewatin St. Will is Ridley's son. Dr. Vernon was married a second time in 1961. His first wife, an invalid, died shortly before that. Dr. Vernon married a sister of the owner of the Weston Biscuit Co. There may be a Farley relationship here.
- Note 53, page 118: Will H. Purdy and his wife Audrey drew out this list of names from the family records while the writer and his wife were there also. It has not been an easy matter to get sufficient information from different sources to double check this data about our grandfather John's family. Later information has proven that Mrs. Jones (Tobitha) and Mrs. Dorland (Abbagane) were Ruliff's daughters, note letter dated March 3, 1878 from Tura Vrooman to the writer's mother Emma, page 168.
Dr. Gilbert Purdy has the title doctor applied to his name (no explanation).
- Note 54, page 118: The obituary of Haturia Purdy Vrooman the only sister of the writer's mother gives eleven in the family. The old family album mentions Phillip and shows his picture. There is confusion about another daughter named Mary mentioned in J.C. Clark's diary but no knowledge. Here she is called Miss W. Purdy, daughter of John Purdy.
- Note 55, page 118: Eliza Ann was the daughter of Samuel D. Purdy, a brother of John. Dr. Henry Day of Trenton, the husband of Eliza Ann sold his business to Frank Farley, Hazel Farley's brother. The son of Dr. Frank Farley called Dr. Jack Farley lives in the old Dr. Henry Day home today (1961). Read pages 76-76 to better understand the Jones-Purdy-Farley-Palmer relationships. Also note material in Effie Purdy letters page 142-150. Effie's mother's name was Sarah Purdy.
- Note 56, page 120: This letter by Maud Vrooman contains much information about the Ralph Purdy family another son of John and Anna Purdy, the grandparents of all we first cousins. Maud's father, Will Vrooman, was a son of

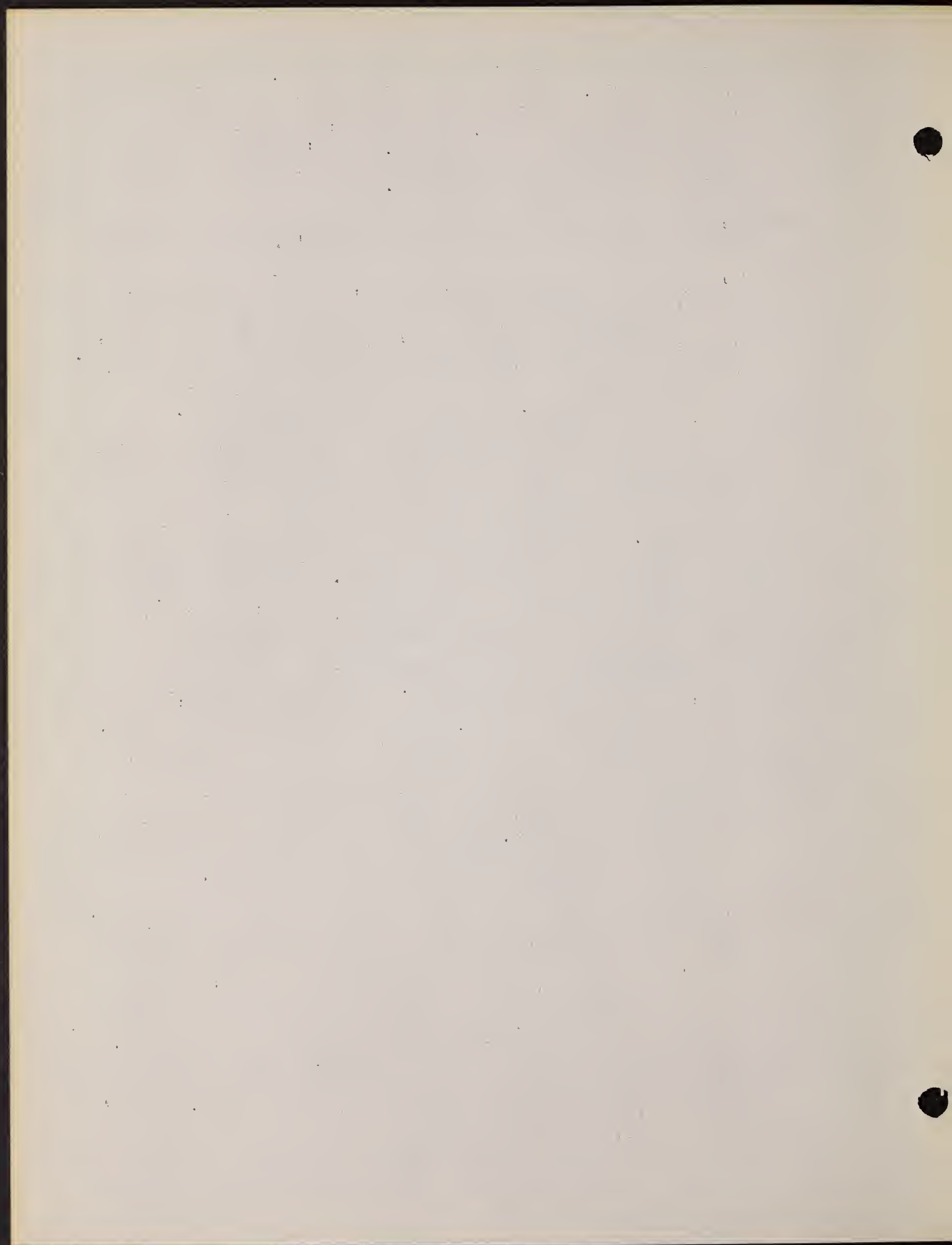


Maturia the eldest child of John and Anna. Will married Sarah Ogilvie. They moved to Wisconsin. The Ralph Purdy family and the Will Vrooman family were well acquainted in Wisconsin. The writer's mother Emma grew up with Will Vrooman her nephew. Will's mother Maturia was 20 years older than Emma her sister. Will was only several years younger than Emma.

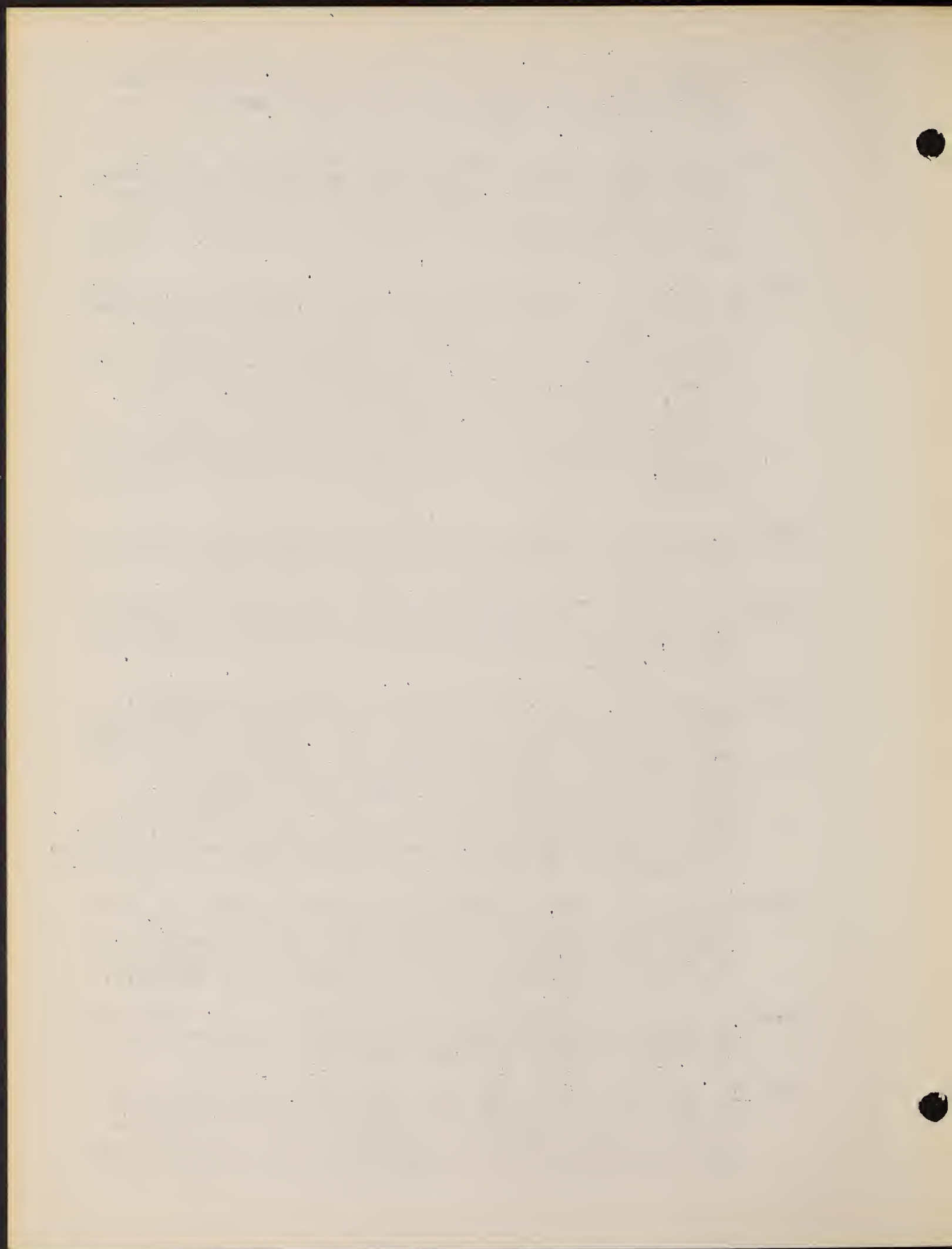
Note 57, page 126: There is a lot of old Purdy information in these pages and a lot about the Ogilvie's.

Note 58, page 128: The information of these several letters and information written by David Purdy's wife Ada Greenleaf who lived many years after her husband and who wrote often to her brother in law's family, Charles Purdy of Portland, is all we have at present concerning the David Purdy family. This is the only family unit of our John Purdy group which apparently does not care to be associated with the others in any family study, however, impersonal it may be. We are therefore withholding letters written by Ada Greenleaf Purdy to the Charley Purdy family which give much personal information about the George Purdy family during their school years. While their educational qualifications are excellent there are many other Purdys who can qualify equally and who likewise have considerable wealth and influence. It is difficult to carry on any study of this sort when class distinctions interfere to create either superiority or inferiority complexes. The writer learned a good deal about the David Purdy family from Will M. Purdy of Toronto whose father Ridley, David's brother, helped finance David several times. Also from Ralph Purdy another brother who the writer was told by his daughter Effie was in business in Spencer where David likewise was in business there. Also from my mother Emma's letters and from Maud Thomas, Charlie Purdy's daughter, we learned much. My own father and his parents, my grandparents, had the post office and a general store in Spencer, Iowa (around 1865-1877) until the family grew up there long before the time of David Purdy and his family. It was there that my father's family met Charlie Purdy and where Charlie was married and Maud Purdy, the eldest child was born. Grandmother Purdy and her daughter Emma visited much at Davids and at Charlies after Charlie moved his store from Spencer to Iowa Falls, Iowa.

Note 59, page 130: Miss Ione Oakes of 88 George St., Toronto 14, Ontario has corresponded since August, 1961 when we visited her. Through Ione we have learned a great deal for our study. Some of her letters and her mother's obituary help confirm many facts. Mary Lillian Vrooman, Ione's mother, married Geo. D. Oakes. The family was raised in Brighton and knew the Lewis A. Purdy (another brother of Emma) family. Ione helped us to inter-relate much Purdy family history. Ione is a retired kindergarten teacher. She was never married. Her grandmother, Maturia Purdy Vrooman, lived with her father and mother many years after James Vrooman, the grandfather died. Maturia was my mother Emma's only sister.



- Note 60, page 131: A letter from Lev L. Purdy to his brother Charles Purdy in Portland in 1910 indicates that he sent his boys to medical school for awhile but apparently they did not carry on. Note top of page 102.
- Note 61, page 133: This obituary helps fix dates and gives a brief family history. It was sent me through the kindness of Ione Oakes. Mary Lillian Vrooman Oakes was well known to my mother Emma, her aunt, when she was a young girl. She was 13 years old when Emma left for Iowa to be married. They never met again.
- Note 62, page 134: Eva Mae Purdy who wrote the following letters is the wife of Walter Purdy one of the three sons of Samuel called Sam, my mother Emma's brother. We met Eva Mae at Peterborough, Ontario in 1961. Walter has been dead for several years. Walter was the writer's first cousin. Both Walter and his brother Lev were in business with their father, Sam, at Coe Hill, Ontario for a number of years. Eva Mae and her daughter, Agnes, have given me much valuable information. Eva Mae has a son, M. J. Purdy, who lives at Bellville. He has a stage route thereabouts and a sawmill near Coe Hill. The girls are written up by their mother.
- Note 63, page 135: Walter Palmer Purdy had relatives on his mother's side (Palmers) who owned extensive farm properties near Medicine Hat, Alberta. Walter farmed there.
- Note 64, page 136: It has been impossible to follow up on all the leads that have been given me. It would seem that this Ray Purdy was younger than the early families we have been able to trace.
- Note 65, page 137: This letter refers to Annie Purdy Hather. Samuel's only daughter that grew to womanhood. Dr. Frank Hather, her husband, was an M.D. who practiced in Bellville for many years. They never had any children. In her later years Annie, as this letter indicates lived with her husband's people in Flushing, Michigan. The Hathers were quite wealthy at one time. When Annie died she gave a lovely diamond ring in three settings, one to Walter, one to Lev, her two brothers. The third diamond was not reported. It is said that the Hathers had a lovely home in Belleville.
- Note 66, page 137: The old home town of both the wives of Walter and Will Purdy was Castleton, Ontario. The boys were raised there, children of Samuel and Eliza. Walter's wife Eva Mae Nichols tells about her family in this letter. Maude who was Will's wife had the maiden name of Gaffield.
- Note 67, page 139: Agnes the daughter of Eva Mae and Walter Purdy has given the writer much encouragement. It is appreciated in a job like this. Several letters are printed.
- Note 68, page 140: While the writer has not as yet followed up on the person mentioned (Miss Annie Howlett) the lead, of course, is very valuable. A personal interview would be best. Samuel Purdy was a hardy character. We have learned much about him and hope to learn more of his activities in



his saw mills around Castleton and Coe Hill. We understand that his sons, Lev and Walter, were associated with him for a considerable time. We visited Coe Hill and Purdyville.

Note 69, page 140: Study of the Purdys in England has not been attempted as yet. The writer has heard from several sources that the crest was a peacock. It has been said by Miss Hazel Farley of Trenton that the dentist, Verne Purdy of Toronto, who is the son of Will Husgrove Purdy has located this old crest.

Note 70, page 142: Effie Purdy has told us much about Ralph Purdy and his family. Ralph was one of the six brothers of my mother, Emma. Ralph's family moved to Wisconsin many years ago. Effie, 88 years and Nellie, 92 years of age, still survive. Effie and Nellie are among the few first cousins. Ralph was my mother's brother. Ralph's wife Sarah and Samuel Purdy's wife Eliza were Palmer sisters. Effie lives in Santa Barbara. Her letters are very helpful.

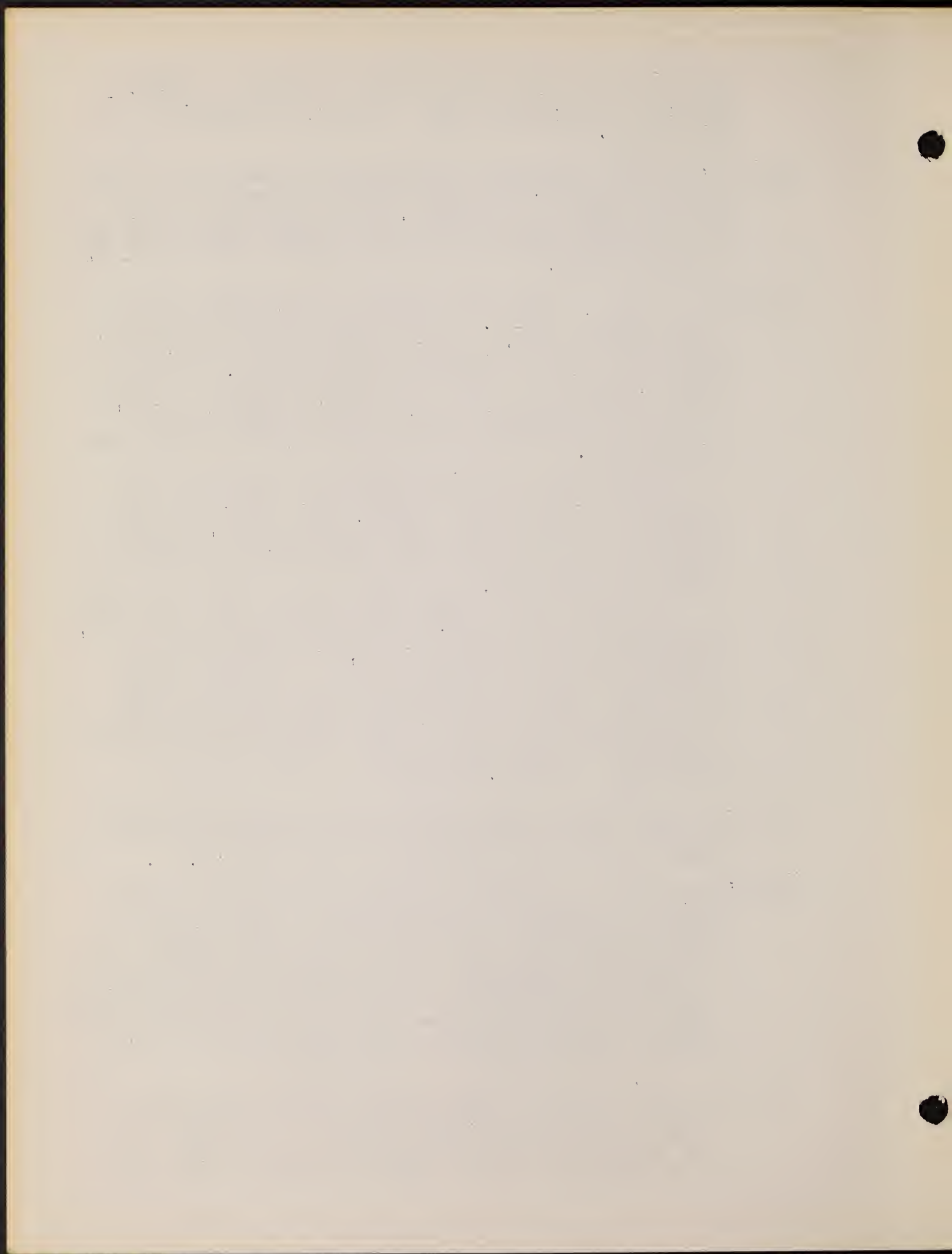
Effie Purdy was never married. She has been a kindergarten teacher most of her life. She has a fine memory and writes lovely letters. She helped me locate the Charley Purdy family. By following Effie's letters much can be learned about the Palmer family and leads concerning the Farley and Jones family of Trenton, Bellville and thereabouts.

Aunt Liza here is Mary Eliza Palmer Purdy, the wife of Sam Purdy of Castleton. Cousin Annie is Sam and Eliza's only daughter who married Dr. Hather. Frankie is the daughter of Phillip Palmer, Effie's uncle, the brother of her grandfather Wilson L. Palmer. We must remember that Sarah Palmer, Effie's mother was a sister of Mary Eliza who married Sam Purdy. So between Ralph and Sam and Sarah and Mary Eliza we have double cousins in their children. We have visited Effie in Santa Barbara at 2120 Santa Barbara St. (1963).

Note 71, page 143: This page gives a number of important dates by Effie Purdy. It proves Ralph the second son in age among the six Purdy brothers, sons of John Purdy.

Note 72, page 147: It seems that Burt Purdy was born in Mason City. It has been told that Ralph, his father was in business at one time in Spencer, Iowa. Also we hear of them in Iowa Falls, Iowa. Also at one time Ridley Purdy was interested in David Purdy's store in Mason City. Will H. Purdy of Toronto, the son of Ridley spent some time in Mason City, Spencer and Iowa Falls clerking for David and Charlie Purdy. Will H. has told me of experiences in these places. My own father Wm. Hasten met my mother Emma at Charley Purdy's store at Iowa Falls, Iowa.

Note 73, page 151: These letters written by Emma L. Purdy to my father William W. Hasten from Canada to Kansas during several years before their marriage on March 22, 1881 are only a few chosen ones from nearly a hundred. They were written between 1878 and 1881 mostly. They give



insight into the growing families of the six sons and two daughters of John and Anna Purdy and tell about the death of Emma's father, John Purdy.

John Purdy committed suicide in 1865. He was born in 1805. He was a well-to-do respected citizen of his community and church. We were told elsewhere that he was dying of cancer and as the letter states had little longer to live. We are told that grandfather John was well off. Why he changed his farm from Sidney to Smithfield is another story as follows. There were six sons that we know about and one, Phillip, that we never heard of. Lewis A. of Brighton was married and a merchant at his father's death. Ralph, Sam, daughter Haturia and David had all left home. The only ones left at home were Emma, Charlie, and Ridley. Emma was 10. Charlie was 12 and Ridley was 17. Lewis, Ralph and David had all called on father John for help to get started in the merchantile business. Sam was 21 just before his father's death and left home to go out to Western Canada and the gold country. The crops proved bad, the mortgage helped the older boys. Those at home were too young to help; father John was deathly sick. Today we would call it justified homicide.

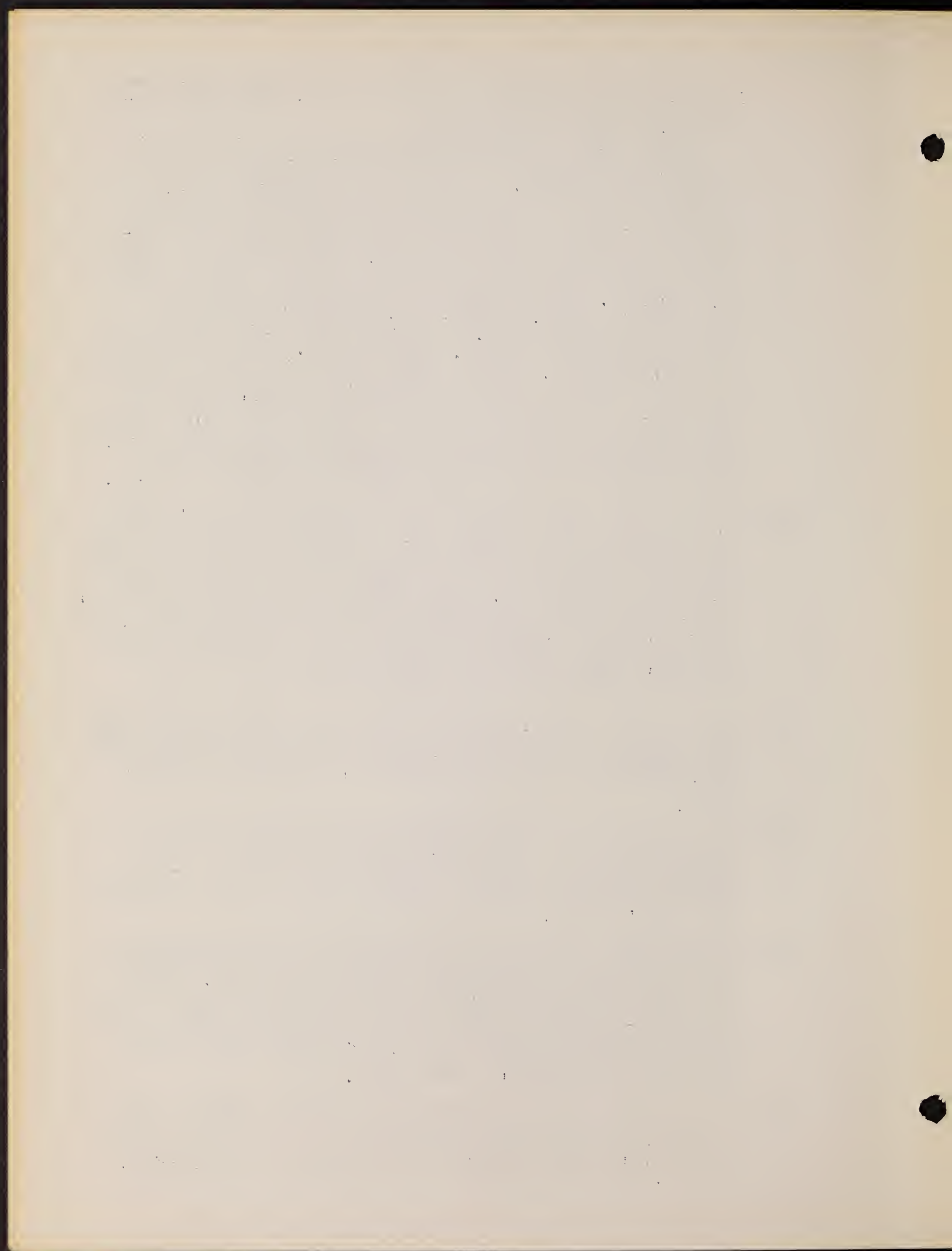
Note 74, page 155: This letter refers to brother Ralph's bad luck in Montevideo, Minnesota. Mother to be Emma mentions the quarreling between the young married couples. She has not been married yet. She may learn that married life is not all cosy later on. The mother of Jane Ann and Dave was Tobitha Purdy, a daughter of Ruliff who was John Purdy's brother. Will V. often used, referred to Will Vrooman, son of Haturia Vrooman who married James Vrooman. Haturia is Emma's sister and Will Vrooman, the father of Haud Vrooman is written up in Haud's letters.

Note 75, page 157: Emma, and her mother, the wife of John Purdy are staying with Ridley who at this date has lost his wife Anna Ireland. The four children: Fred, Harry, Lillie and Will are being cared for by Ridley's mother and sister Emma.

Note 76, page 157: Abbagane (Purdy) Dorland is the mother of this Carrie and her sister's Julia and Flora who are cousins of Emma. Really it is Abbagane who is a first cousin because her father, Ruliff Purdy is John's brother and Emma's uncle.

Note 77, page 157: This double cousin that Emma mentions was Jennie Purdy so called really Jane Ann Purdy whom Ridley did marry not long hereafter (turn to note 41). Jennie is a sister of Melia (Lillie) who became the wife of John Rose and the parents of Elva Mae (Rose) Hobbs. Mary here is the wife of Charlie Purdy. My father to be met Emma at Charlie Purdy's home in Iowa Falls while he was clerking in Charlie's store there.

Note 78, page 158: Emma was 27 years old at the time of this letter. She had taught school but quit in order to help with Ridley's children. It was too much for her mother to do. Emma was waiting to go to Iowa to get married.



Ridley had help in the home also but the tragic death of the children's mother, Anna Ireland, still was a sad memory.

Note 79, page 158: Emma visits her brother Sam at Castleton and Haturia ("Tute's") Vrooman in Trenton. Gordon's Hill is only 3 or 4 miles north of Trenton. The Purdy home was a mile or two east across the Trent River at the top of a considerable raise in the land and across the Sickie place with big buildings. We visited the Gordon Hills farm of Ridley but the old barn and buildings were burned or torn down.

Note 80, page 158: An interesting story about Ridley. A big raw boned man, his bravery and know how were essential at one of these big barn raisings. If Ridley helped Emma's "Cousin Mr. Farley" it was probably William Farley, the husband of Jane Ann Jones Farley. Jane Ann's mother Tobitha was definitely a cousin of Emma's.

Note 81, page 162: This is the only letter in which Emma refers to Sam's son Lewis. It seems that Sam was quite a reader when young and first married. This letter is written from Sam's home at Castleton Hills.

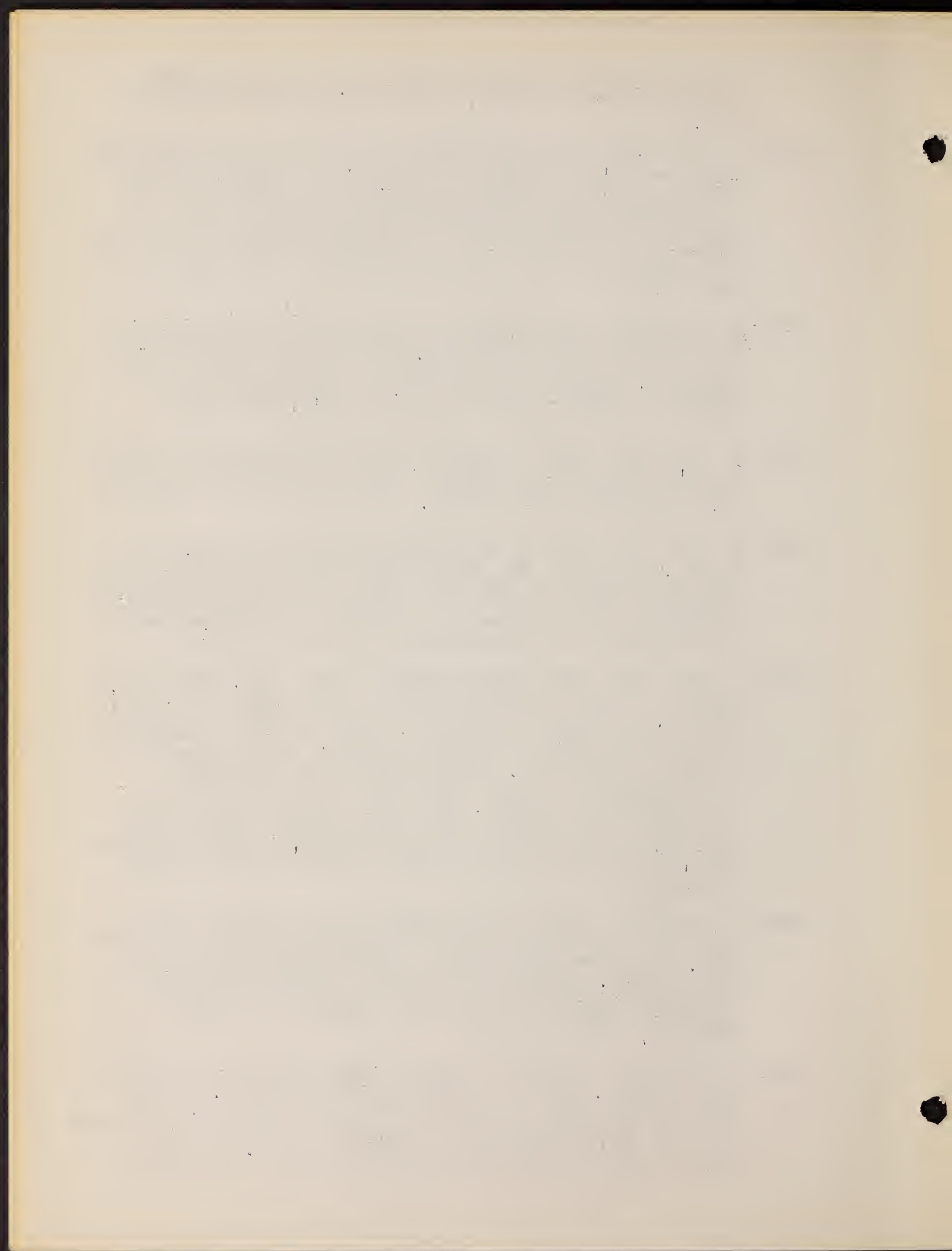
Note 82, page 164: Emma is at Brighton visiting her brother, Lewis A. Purdy and his wife Mary Louisa Rose Purdy. It is not long now before Emma will leave for Iowa Falls and her wedding on March 22, 1881. We are getting considerable reference to the cousins, the Dorlands; to brother Charlie of Iowa Falls, to more cousins, the Jones family.

Note 83, page 165: This letter speaks of more relatives. It is one of the last before she goes to Iowa Falls, Iowa to be married. Emma was over to Dr. Days for dinner. Dr. Day's wife is a daughter of Samuel D. Purdy of Bath. Samuel is an uncle of Emma's, a brother of John. This is mentioned in letters elsewhere. They visited back and forth.

"Cousin Millie and I took our pony and came to Brighton (from Trenton). This shows that Emma and Millie were pretty well acquainted. Millie later married John Rose and Elva Mae Hobbs is their daughter. Others in the Hobb's family are mentioned in Elva Mae's letters found elsewhere.

Note 84, page 166: Mary Eliza (Palmer) Purdy writes a note to Emma from Castleton. February weather and roads are often bad. Emma does not have time or transportation for too much travel. Castleton is almost a days travel away from Gordon's Hill, north of Trenton, now called Miller's Crossing. Emma is called "Em" - "Turia" is Haturia Vrooman.

Note 85, page 167: A very old letter. This letter was written by Samuel L. Purdy from Port Madison, Washington to his sister Emma who was 11 years old at this time. Sam was out west for several years on a search for gold. The letter below is mailed in the same envelope, to his brother Ralph Purdy. He mentions his brother Dave. The father,



John, died while Sam was out west and David was in the states it seems.

Note 86, page 168: This note explains several interrelations of significance.

Note 87, page 169: Note 87 refers to page 142 and mentions the third Palmer sister who married a "Lincoln" and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. The letter of this note mentions the baby of Ridley's second wife Jennie. Don was the only baby that Jennie Raised.

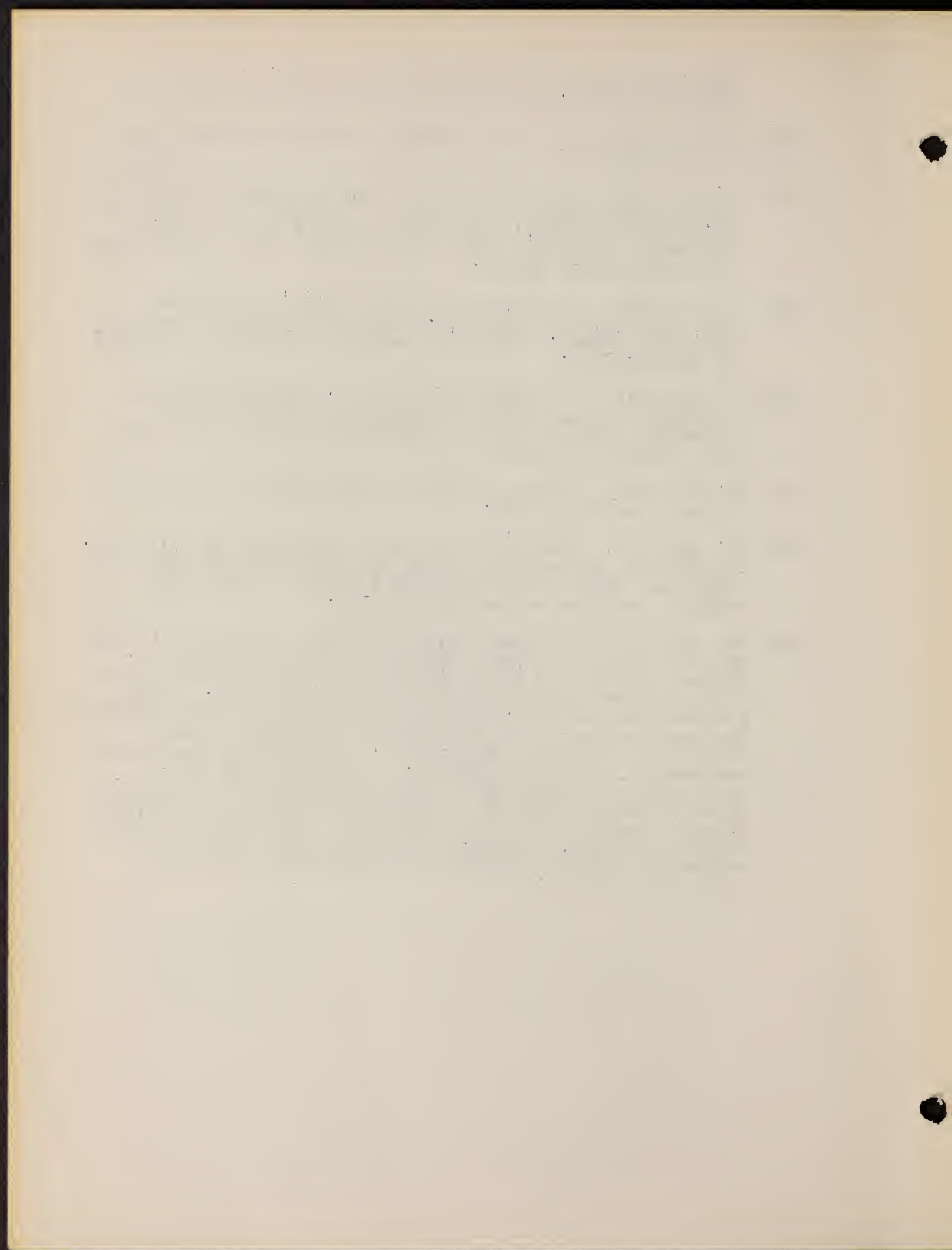
Note 88, page 170: Ada Greenleaf Purdy, David's wife lived many years after David died. Her son George was the only child she raised. George's family is mentioned in letters on page 128-129.

Note 89, page 171: We learned from Will H. Purdy of Toronto that Henry Day took care of Grandmother Purdy. Other information indicates that grandmother lived another year, until sometime in 1902.

Note 90, page 171: Address of Cousin Claude Thomas at present writing, March 28, 1963.

Note 91, page 173: Ridley's wife Anna is very sick at this time. Grandmother is planning to come and help her with the children. Emma quits her school teaching to help her mother. The date is probably 1878-79.

Note 92, page 173: It seems that grandmother and daughter, Emma, are on the point of moving from the old Smithfield home. Ridley we think has taken over the old farm or sold it and is paying the grandmother for it in installments. Later letters indicate this. Emma has been away to school. Charlie has gone to Iowa. The old farm was not being worked. Grandmother is alone and lonesome. Grandmother goes to her son Lewis A. Purdy in Brighton. Apparently things are difficult financially for a time. Grandmother is worrying about "bread and dinner". Fortunately this was a temporary affair. Grandmother goes to Ridley's. Emma goes to visit Charles and David in Iowa. Later Emma goes with her mother to Ridley's and after a couple years returns to Iowa to be married.



The First Purdys In Canada

A Compilation of Notes and Historical Data

Concerning the Eight Children

of the Family

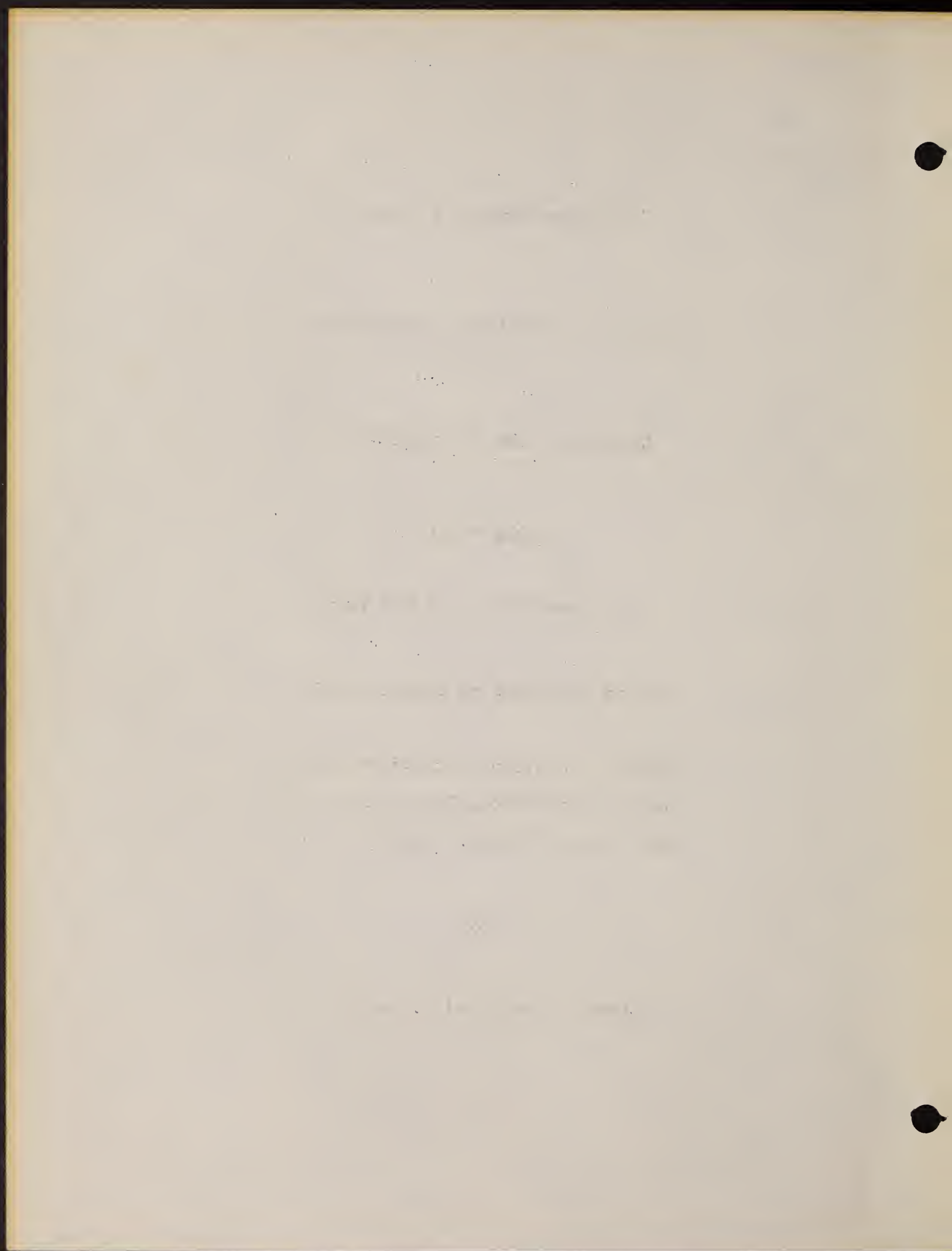
of Gilbert Purdy of New York

Six of Whom Came to Canada in 1783

Mostly the story of the descendants
of the eldest son, David Purdy and
his family of Bath, Ontario.

by

John W. and Hazel E. Masten



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(by J.W. and Hazel E. Masten)

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Introduction to Notes of Study "Our Purdys of Canada"

by John W. Masten

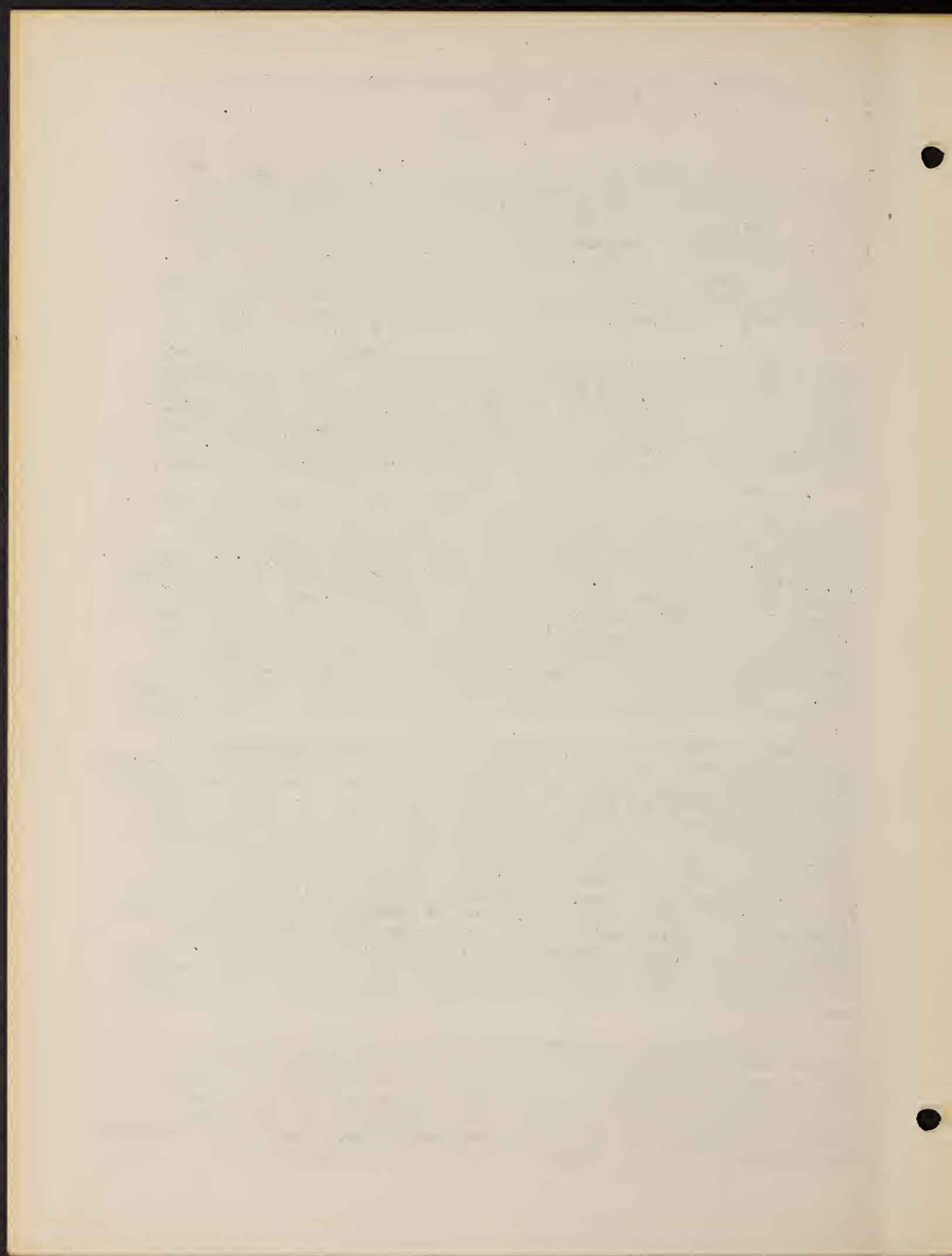
Sometime before my father's death in the early 1930's he handed me a stack of old letters written to him mostly by my mother, Emma J. Purdy before their marriage on March 22, 1881. "Your mother died" said he "before you or your brother Charles were old enough to remember her. These letters are sweetheart letters, but after you read them you will know what kind of a mother you had." As young and busy people do, I put these away for another twenty-five years. When my wife Hazel and I retired, I got these letters out one day and read every one of them.

My mother was a Canadian girl. Her letters told about her life with her family in Canada in the 1870's. They told of her six brothers all married and in business. They were filled with interesting anecdotes about herself and her mother after grandfather John's death in 1863. Emma was the youngest in the family. The others were all married and raising families and she visited all of them with her mother, my grandmother, Margaret Ann Purdy.

My wife and myself decided to visit Canada in 1961 and learn more about my relatives, the Purdys. There were few contacts with the past. The journey became a pleasant one by jet from California to Toronto. Thence by rail to Kingston and later back along Lake Ontario by rented car to all places where we might find traces of our Purdys. Later we toured the Gaspé and returned to Chicago from Montreal via Dutch Ocean Lines. We met many descendants of our first cousins. We found much historical data. We contacted books, institutions, libraries and older citizens. We made contacts which led to much correspondence over nearly two years. The result is really a source book of data from which much more could be gathered by others who can contribute if they choose.

The historical part and that obtained from references is first. Here we have copied from data furnished by Dr. H.C. Burleigh, U.E.L. Historian of Bath. An old book "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte" has furnished much. Material from the J.C. Clarke diary in Queen's University Library is important. Mr. H. Pierson Gundy, Chief Librarian of the Queen's University of Kingston has kindly furnished us with several bulletins. One entitled "The United Empire Loyalists Settlements Between Kingston and Adolphustown" by R. W. Cumberland. Another "Gilbert Purdy--Pioneer Jack of All Trades" by H. Pearson Gundy. There are numerous library references which have furnished background. As we gathered more and more momentum by visiting relatives and friends of the old Purdy family we were able to make contacts with many living persons able to help and direct us. The theme of the notes leads into this study from many angles.

To find living relatives here and there was the crowning achievement which tied the study to reality. My mother Emma and her brothers and sisters, the children of John Purdy and Margaret Ann Fretz were, of course, all dead. My mother, the youngest, in the family was born in 1853. Our problem was to find the children, if possible of this older generation. They could remember the members of the old family. They were the first cousins.



My brother and myself could call John Purdy and Margaret Ann Fretz Purdy, our grandparents. We could call our mother's brothers and sisters, aunts or uncles. Aunt Maturia, Uncle Sam, Uncle Ridley or Lewis or Ralph or Charles or David. Later we have learned much about the families and descendants of those aunts and uncles.

Eventually we located a first cousin, the son of Ridley Purdy, still living in Toronto named Will M. Purdy and his wife, Audrey. Will was 88 in 1961. Their memory of the old family was like finding a gold mine. Will remembered my mother, Emma, who helped care for him and his brothers and sisters just before his own mother died. He knew our mutual grandmother Purdy for many years before her death in 1902. We located the wives of two more first cousins, Mrs. Maud Purdy, the wife of Will Purdy of Castleton and Mrs. Eva Mae Purdy, the wife of Walter Purdy of Peterborough.

Both this Will and Walter were sons of Sam Purdy of Castleton and Coe Hill. Even before this we located Claude V. Purdy and his wife Olive in Kingston. Claude was the son of Lew Purdy. Lew was the third son of Sam, my uncle who was my mother's brother.

Mrs. Arthur Rutherford of Colborne was responsible for our finding Claude V. and the family of Lew Purdy mostly near Kingston, Ontario.

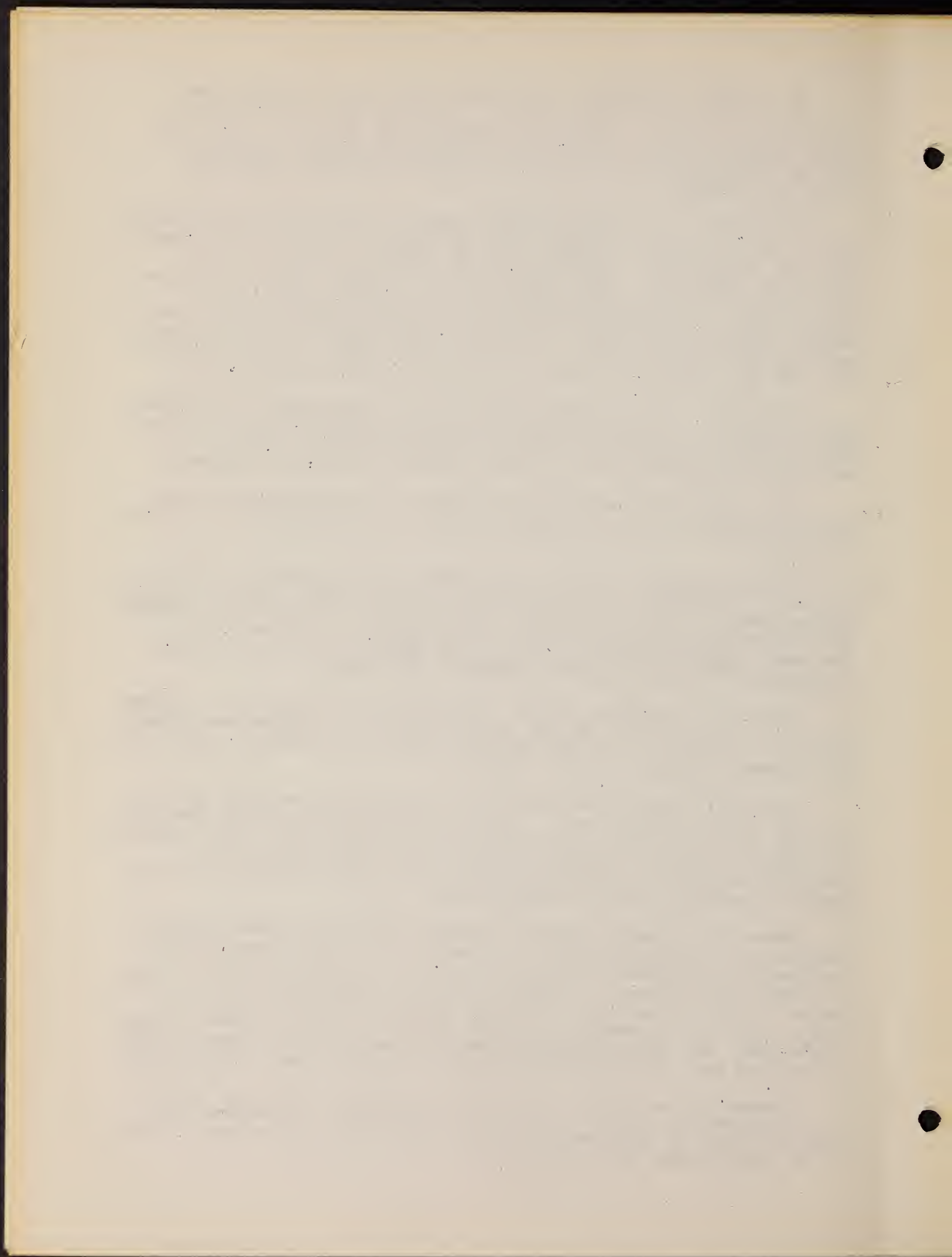
As time passed we found Ione Oakes, the daughter of Minnie Vrooman. Minnie was the daughter of mother's only sister, Maturia. Maturia married James Vrooman. Through Ione we found Maud Vrooman of Wisconsin. Maud is the daughter of Minnie's brother, Will Vrooman. Through Maud we found, still living, Effie and Nellie, daughters of Ralph, another brother of my mother.

Later we found the Charles Purdy family in Portland. Charles like all the old first family is dead but his daughter Maud Thomas is still living aged 88, and another daughter, Maturia, named after my mother's sister, is still living.

All in all there are seven of the first cousins still living and the wives of two others: myself and brother Charles, the sons of Emma (Purdy) Masten; Maud Thomas and Maturia Hunt, the daughters of Charles Purdy of Portland; Effie Purdy and Nellie Purdy, daughters of Ralph Purdy of Superior, Wisconsin; finally, Will M. Purdy of Toronto, son of Ridley Purdy.

There is a special section devoted to letters from several sources and a section devoted to family group histories. Direct information in signed letters constitute a valuable source of authentic information. Of course, there is much repetition in this method of gathering data. There is some conflicting data and dates. This is apparent even from historical data written up many years ago. The writers have repeated themselves and purposefully in getting data from different sources to help prove authenticity.

Errors and omissions will be corrected if they are called to our attention and if a revision is possible. Otherwise they will be added as an appendix. This study is a source book. From it we hope others will carry on.



There is more data about our family of John Purdy and Margaret Ann Fretz which may be added later. There is already included more about this than other groups.

The family of great grandfather, David Purdy, with seven sons and two daughters is also quite definitely outlined but not in detail. Our grandfather, John, is one of David's sons. We have been able to trace in considerable detail two of John's brothers, Gilbert and Jacob. We are much indebted to Elva Mae Hobbs of Toronto for data regarding her grandfather, Jacob Purdy, a brother of John. We are indebted to Elva Hobbs for a great deal of data regarding the Lewis A. Purdy family. Lewis is another son of grandfather John. Elva Mae's letters, enclosed herein, are especially significant in fixing Gilbert Purdy's hereditary data as a part of our Purdys and various relationships of other groups. The fact that Jacob's wife, Amelia Fretz, sister of John's wife, Anna Fretz, and that Elva Mae's father, John Rose, was the son of another sister, Aurelia Fretz, makes quite a problem in blood relationships.

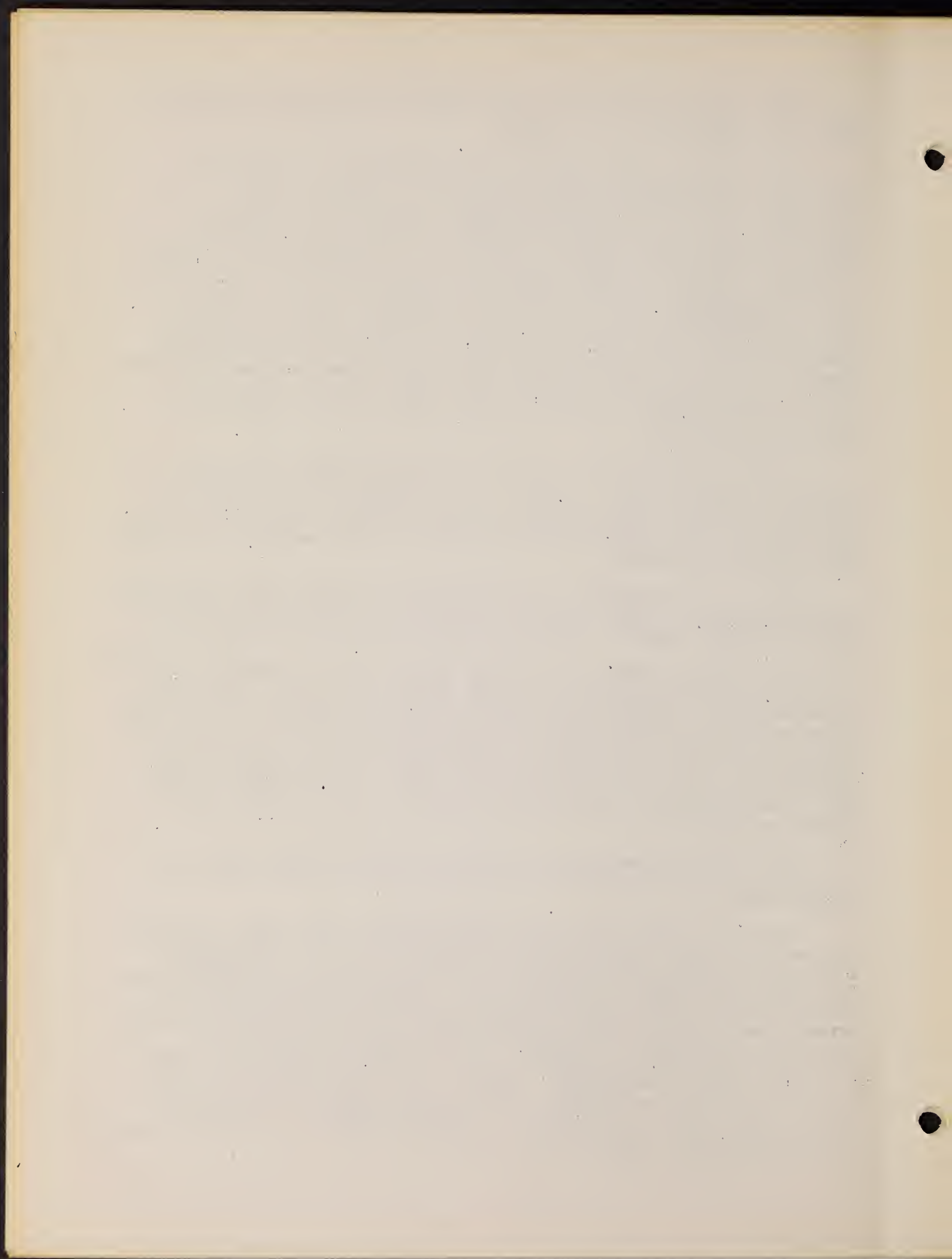
We are indebted to Wm. Purdy of 7641 Placentia Ave., Anaheim, California for our first outline of the descendants of Gilbert Purdy and Hannah Gould. Later we were indebted to Mrs. Marjorie Rutherford, for another similar outline of these descendants which she obtained from members of this group in her vicinity of Colborne and Castleton, Ontario.

Mrs. A. C. Hetcalfe of Toronto and her Cousin Harry Walker of Toronto helped to trace out the Gilbert Purdy-Hannah Gould outline down to recent members. This is a special study not included.

Mrs. Fred'k Stevenson of White Rock, British Columbia, furnished considerable data augmented by that of Mrs. Marjorie Rutherford, which related a family group starting with Nathaniel Purdy to our group starting with Gilbert Purdy and Hannah Gould, his wife, and including others named Clarke, Walker and others. This is an incomplete study. The writers think that possibly the Nathaniel Purdy family was related to our own Purdys through Samuel Purdy, one of the original four brothers from New York but this is not proven as yet.

There are too many to whom we are indebted for help to mention in this Introduction. They will be mentioned hereafter in the text.

There is considerable historical data reaching back to great grandfather David Purdy and his three brothers and four sisters who came from New York to Canada in 1783. This is adequately explained elsewhere. There is much room for further study of the descendants of these four brothers. Our attempt covers little except the story of David Purdy's descendants. There is included an outline of David's brother, Gilbert and his descendants. Gilbert's descendants started out in Kingston. Many are buried in the Kingston Cemeteries. Micajah, the third brother, we know much less about, and Samuel, the fourth brother moved elsewhere and we know little about him. We think he owned a stage line between York (now Toronto) and Kingston in 1817, but his name alone is not authentic proof.



The bulletin by R. W. Cumberland, No. 45, "The United Empire Loyalist Settlements Between Kingston and Adolphustown" was given to the writer by H. Pierson Gundy, the Chief Librarian of Queen's University of Kingston. It is a Canadian bulletin published in May, 1923. Robert Everett Grass, a son of Captain Michael Grass married Nancy Purdy. His mother, Esther Everett, was a sister of John Everett who married Mercy Purdy, one of the four sisters of our great grandfather, David Purdy. There are many close relationships between the Purdys, the Grass family, Barnabus Day, who married Rhoda Purdy, another sister of our greatgrandfather, and their descendants. The original families came in with Michael Grass in 1783. This is explained more in detail elsewhere.

While most of the data of this study has been compiled and edited by John W. Masten, the writer's wife, Hazel Estelle, has been very helpful in helping collect data. Miss Linda Patterson, our secretary, a student at Fresno State College has worked painstakingly, taking dictation, typing, mimeographing and correcting copy. Mimeograph work nevertheless copied straight from letters or long hand shows many errors when copied verbatim. To eliminate these by another revision is not our purpose as yet. Please just pass over these errors and weep for us if you think we deserve sympathy!

